



November 13, 2025

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Karantonis and Members of the Board,

This letter provides a copy of the legislative agenda which the Arlington County Civic Federation has sent to the Arlington delegation for the 2026 session. This agenda was adopted by a vote of 38-1 during our meeting on November 11, 2025.

Our focus is on enabling Arlington to make changes in its form of government if either the County Board or the people of Arlington choose to do so, enabling Arlington to take action on its own volition to safeguard against flooding, slow the rate of tree canopy loss, and to place speed/traffic cameras where they best meet Arlington's safety goals. We express support for passage of Delegate Hope's bill (successor to 2025's HB 2768) to enlarge Arlington's authorities to improve its own form of government through a public process.

We are aware of and have reviewed the current draft of the County Board's legislative agenda. It's an impressive and detailed document and in many ways congruent with discussions which have and will take place within CivFed. We would like to call your attention to an area where our views are distinct from those in your legislative agenda. The draft Board document says, "Review Form and Powers of Government: Ensure any changes to Arlington's form of government are made at the discretion of the County Board and County residents." We expect that the County Board should be a valued partner with the community in reform efforts and are gratified that you are advancing plans to convene a new Advisory Panel to Examine Arlington County's Form of Government. We concur that a consensus process would definitely be optimal, Arlington is a jurisdiction led by people of good will who are delivering high quality government services to the community. CivFed actively supports a collaborative approach, but if a Board-led consensus is not achieved, there should be a process by which a popular referendum is a viable option to enact changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

NJ Giacobbe, Jr.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
President