



November 13, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Arlington Delegation to Richmond

Dear Senators Favola and Ebbins, Delegates Hope, McClure, and Lopez,

This letter forwards the legislative agenda of the Arlington Civic Federation 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 support 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 for the legislative agenda of the Arlington County Board, which you will receive from them soon. 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 of the County Board, though. 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 the Board has announced its intention to convene a new Advisory Panel to Examine Arlington County's Form of Government. A consensus process would definitely be optimal here, our Board members are 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 developed, there should be a process for a popular referendum to enact changes.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

NJ Giacobbe, Jr.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
President