RESOLUTION: 2027 ACCF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DRAFT 2: 28 OCTOBER 2026

Resolution by the Legislation Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF), Francine Friedman and Dave Schultz, Co-Chairs and POCs, legislation.chair@civfed.org.
Introduced at the 13 October 2026 Membership Meeting for voting at the 10 November 2026 Membership Meeting.

2027 Virginia Legislative Priorities to the Arlington Delegation and Arlington County Board

ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

- **WHEREAS** Arlington continues to experience tree-canopy loss, localized flooding, and increased stormwater management challenges; and
- **WHEREAS** Arlington's government is best positioned to address environmental conditions unique to our community;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF requests legislation granting Arlington and similarly situated localities expanded authority to:
    - Protect and retain existing tree canopy;
    - Require meaningful replacement of removed trees;
    - Address flooding and stormwater runoff through locally tailored requirements;
    - Encourage resilient site design and green infrastructure; and
    - Better coordinate land-use and environmental protection objectives.

- **WHEREAS** the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for buildings is a widely adopted national baseline standard in the US. Virginia has adopted the 2021 IECC code with a series of amendments. According to the US Department of Energy, the 2024 version would yield significantly lower energy use and cost if adopted.
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the ACCF requests that the Legislature consider whether to adopt, or enable municipalities to adopt, the 2024 IECC Code.

- **WHEREAS** benchmarking for commercial building energy efficiency compares a building's energy performance against established standards to identify areas for improvement. Benchmarking helps building owners and managers understand their energy usage patterns, identify inefficiencies, and make informed decisions to improve energy efficiency. Benchmarking can enable commercial tenants to include energy efficiency as part of their site selection process, increasing the incentive for building owners to improve.
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the ACCF requests that the Legislature consider whether to enable localities to mandate energy benchmarking for commercial buildings.

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ON JUSTICE REFORM

- **WHEREAS** ACCF has historically supported reforms related to both juvenile justice and civil asset forfeiture; and
- **WHEREAS** continued improvement of fairness, transparency, and accountability in the justice system remains important;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF once again encourages the Arlington Delegation to support legislation that:
    - Expands evidence-based juvenile justice alternatives;
    - Reduces unnecessary juvenile detention;
    - Establishes due-process protections in juvenile justice and for civil forfeiture;
    - Continues civil forfeiture reforms; and
    - Enhances transparency and accountability in forfeiture proceedings.

ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- **WHEREAS** Arlington County continues to operate under statutory limitations regarding its form of government that do not apply to many other Virginia localities; and
- **WHEREAS** Arlington residents should have the opportunity to develop community consensus regarding potential governance reforms with freedoms at least as great as those enjoyed by other Virginia jurisdictions;
- **WHEREAS** local governments should have flexibility to tailor governmental structures to local conditions and public preferences;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF requests that the Arlington Delegation support legislation granting Arlington County authority equivalent to that available to other Virginia jurisdictions concerning local government organization and structure, including authority, subject to locally determined processes and safeguards, to:
    - Modify the size of the County Board and School Board;
    - Establish or alter term lengths and term staggering;
    - Utilize first-past-the-post or ranked-choice voting;
    - Create additional opportunities for neighborhood and citizen representation; and
    - Enact governance reforms by County Board action or by referendum.

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ON PARKING REQUIREMENTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY

- **WHEREAS** legislation enacted by the Commonwealth in 2026 limits the amount of minimum off-street parking that localities may require, even though residents' need for vehicles and actual parking demand are not eliminated by restricting the amount of parking provided and may instead result in parking demand being displaced to surrounding neighborhoods and public streets;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF requests legislation restoring the authority of localities to require minimum on-site parking above state-imposed caps where documented existing and reasonably anticipated vehicle ownership and parking demand warrant, including consideration of observed parking demand, neighborhood spillover, transit availability and demonstrated transportation demand management effectiveness, and opposing categorical statewide elimination of minimum parking requirements.

ON UTILITY POLES, WIRES, AND RELATED FACILITIES

- **WHEREAS** abandoned, duplicative, or inactive utility poles, wires, and related facilities can obstruct sidewalks, interfere with ADA-accessible pedestrian routes, and remain in place despite limited local authority to require their removal;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF requests legislation requiring electric and telecommunications utilities to timely remove abandoned or unnecessary facilities and providing localities with authority to require and enforce relocation or removal where utility facilities obstruct or prevent an ADA-accessible pedestrian route.

ON STATE-MAINTAINED ROADS AND LOCALLY ADOPTED IMPROVEMENTS

- **WHEREAS** localities may adopt and fund pedestrian, bicycle, transit, ADA-accessibility, and roadway-safety improvements on state-maintained urban roads, but implementation remains subject to VDOT review, approval, permitting, and state standards;
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ACCF requests legislation establishing a presumption in favor of timely approval of locally adopted and locally funded improvements on state-maintained urban roads, requiring VDOT to coordinate with the locality to resolve concerns and to provide specific written findings based on applicable law or objective engineering and safety standards when an improvement is denied or materially modified, and establishing a timely process for review of unresolved disputes.