Arlington County Civic Federation

November 13, 2026

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair de Ferranti and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Arlington County Civic Federation, I am transmitting the Federation's 2027 Virginia Legislative Priorities for your consideration. The Civic Federation shares the County's interest in securing additional local authority where state law currently constrains Arlington's ability to address local challenges. Our priorities therefore emphasize governance flexibility, environmental resilience, roadway safety, and justice-system reforms.

The Federation encourages the County Board to continue advocating for stronger local authority regarding tree retention, replacement requirements, stormwater management, and flooding prevention. These issues are increasingly interconnected and require tools tailored to Arlington's urban environment.

The Federation respectfully disagrees with the County Board's decision not to support passage in this session of legislation expanding Arlington's authority concerning its form of government prior to the development of broader community consensus. We believe Arlington should possess maximum ability to control its destiny, and at a minimum the same flexibility available to many peer jurisdictions in Virginia. Granting such authority would not predetermine any particular reform. Rather, it would allow Arlington residents and officials to evaluate options through transparent public processes and democratic decision-making. If reforms sought by the community are within the ambit of Arlington's revised section of the Virginia code when consensus forms, they can be put in place much more expeditiously than if legislation is only sought afterwards.

Likewise, the Federation supports local-option authority enabling Arlington to control use of micromobility devices where County transportation and public-safety data demonstrate a need.

Finally, the Federation reiterates its longstanding support for juvenile justice reform and civil forfeiture reform and encourages continued County engagement on both issues during the 2027 legislative session.

We appreciate the Board's consideration and welcome opportunities for further discussion.

Sincerely,

NJ Giacobbe, Jr.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
President

Attachment