Arlington County Civic Federation

November 13, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Arlington Delegation to Richmond

Dear Senators Favola and Bennett-Parker, Delegates Hope, McClure, and Lopez,

On behalf of the Arlington County Civic Federation, I am transmitting the Federation's 2027 Virginia Legislative Priorities. These priorities reflect issues that have been discussed extensively by Civic Federation member organizations and committees and this document was passed without dissent in our meeting of November 10, 2026. They are informed by longstanding CivFed positions, including support for form of government reform, juvenile justice reform, civil forfeiture reform, environmental resilience measures, and greater local authority to address community needs.

We urge the Delegation to support legislation providing Arlington greater authority to preserve tree canopy, mitigate flooding, and address stormwater challenges. Similarly, we support local-option authority permitting Arlington to set rules governing the use of micromobility devices for the safety of all using our roadways, sidewalks, and trails. It is worth noting here that in our discussion of the agenda, the micromobility device issue got enthusiastic backing from members present, including calls for the County to use its existing authorities on speed, sharing trails with pedestrians, and protecting seniors.

Another priority for 2027 is enhancing Arlington's authority regarding its form of government. The Civic Federation disagrees with the position expressed by the County Board that legislation providing flexibility should not be enacted before a community consensus process has been completed. Arlington should enjoy at least the level of volition as is available to many other Virginia jurisdictions. We are not advocating a particular governance outcome. Rather, we support enabling Arlington residents and elected officials to consider governance reforms through appropriate local processes and, where appropriate, through voter referenda.

Finally, we continue to encourage legislative leadership on juvenile justice reform and civil forfeiture reform, areas where meaningful bipartisan progress has already been achieved and where additional improvements remain possible.

We appreciate your service and look forward to working with you during the 2027 General Assembly session.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

NJ Giacobbe, Jr.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
President

Attachment