



Arlington County Civic Federation

Adopted ACCF Standing Committee Charges and Committee Year-End Reports for FY2026

Submitted by FY 25-26 Committee Chairs

Compiled by Jackie Snelling, bod.orgdev@civfed.org



Arlington County Civic Federation

Adopted ACCF Committee Charges and Year-End Reports for FY2024

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A. Arts and Culture Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and make recommendations on all matters pertaining to cultural affairs, including the establishment and maintenance of facilities and the extension of public libraries facilities for higher education. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with appropriate county officials and private bodies dealing with cultural affairs.

FY 2026 Report

This committee was not active in 2026. Activities related to this charge have been assigned as needed to other committees. If you are interested in helping reinvigorate the committee, please contact Jackie Snelling at bod.orgdev@civfed.org.



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B. Environmental Affairs Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and recommend action to the Federation on all matters pertaining to environmental affairs. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with the Environmental Improvement Commission and other official committees and organizations concerned with these matters.

FY2026 Report

Mary Glass, Chair

environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org

Continuing the focus of the previous year, the Committee was most concerned about Climate Change and the roles natural resources could be playing in mitigation strategies.

Documenting the many natural resource options available to address climate change, especially trees, will be continued next year.

A priority for this committee will be helping ACCF members voice their concerns into the new Arlington County Climate Action Plan in development. The committee chair, Mary Glass, will represent ACCF on the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group. She is actively seeking perspectives on how to approach the planning process as well as specific recommendations on climate change issues, mitigation measures, resource allocation, etc. All ACCF members, delegates and organizations are encouraged to participate.

Other topics discussed included:

- The need to continue to support zoning and permitting measures that help preserve trees and slow the decline of the tree canopy on private lands
- The need for a better County-led strategy to retain and enhance our urban forest on public lands
- The importance of natural resources to mitigate the negative heat island, flooding, health, and well-being impacts from climate change in Arlington
- Measurable progress in implementing the Forest and Natural Resources Plan adopted by the County Board in 2023.

No meetings are scheduled currently. To receive notice of future meetings, contact chair.environmental.affairs@civfed.org



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C. Housing Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study and report on matters relating to housing in Arlington and, as considered appropriate, in surrounding jurisdictions. These matters will include development and enforcement of standards, codes, and legislation; housing needs, construction, operation, maintenance, financing, rehabilitation and regulation of single and multi-family structures; public housing; subsidies and other incentives; and developments affecting the adequacy of public services in residential neighborhoods. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with appropriate county officials and organizations in Arlington, and other organizations in its environs. Because housing policy is closely tied with Planning and Zoning, it is expected to work closely with that committee.

FY2026 Report

Anne Bodine, Matthew Hall, Co-Chairs

housing.chair@civfed.org

The Housing Committee focused primarily this year on core issues:

Affordable Ownership Development Engagement with County Board: The committee mapped out a hypothetical church housing development project drawing on our in-house expertise. Committee co-chair (and affordable housing professional) Matt Hall briefed our committee, then the County Manager and board members, on establishing a new program in Arlington based on New York's Open Door program. (See Hall's briefing to our committee [here](#).) Hall's proposal, which was worked out with two real-life developers working in Arlington, noted a potential for Arlington to expand beyond non-profit providers of affordable housing and to provide moderate-density ownership units of a type that is not currently on offer in Arlington. It would add flexibility beyond Arlington's reliance on land use tools and site plan development to create affordable housing. Two county board members were not receptive, although the idea has significant merit.

Understanding Arlington's Legal Authorities Governing Land Use and New Housing Laws from Richmond. Committee co-chair Bodine [moderated an April CivFed panel with State Senator Favola and County Board member Karantonis](#) to explore potential effects of three new State laws



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targeting increased housing production (video begins at 1:11:47.) We explored whether these laws supersede or conflict with Arlington Board's own legal authorities (verdict still out) and tried to assess local impacts of 3 of the new laws, namely:

- The Faith in Housing Law (SB 388) that allows religious and other non-profits to develop properties they own for affordable housing up to 20 units or more per acre if certain conditions are met.
- The law (H 888) that would allow Arlington to reduce off-street parking requirements during development for single-family and multifamily and mixed-use projects.
- The law (HB 594) moving approvals of certain projects (where 75% of the units are affordable) from the County Board to the Zoning Administrator.

Deep Dive on Process to Redevelop Marriott Key Bridge Site Into Housing (1401 Langston Blvd.)

We devoted several meetings to pursue a novel CivFed “case study” of a mostly residential development in Rosslyn that will deliver over 1700 units at the old Key Bridge Marriott site. This will be a CivFed deep dive not only into a site plan process, but also a potential revision of the land use and zoning that will deliver benefits over and above the “community benefits” for “bonus density” formula.

This issue will form the crux of committee efforts over the next several months; we invite community members to join us. There is great potential to apply lessons to other such projects and provide feedback to:

- Our resolution calling on the county to better define and track housing needs
- The Planning and Zoning resolution to improve site plan processes
- The County's recent audit recommending changes to community benefits tracking.

Our year included a meeting on the status of the Expanded Housing Options with Deputy County Manager Erika Moore who explained the county's “EHO dashboard” and clarified the legal situation that prevented some EHO development while allowing other to proceed.

We also had a briefing from Housing Commission member Joe Ventrone about the Commission's activities, including a review of the Affordable Housing Ordinance which is now 20 years old. (Ventrone also referenced the County's [review of its zoning ordinance on Affordable Housing](#), a very useful primer on AH and density calculations). Ventrone indicated the commission will recommend ways the County could increase affordable housing production as current needs were not being met.



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D. Legislation Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and make recommendations on questions relating to the enactment or repeal of State and Federal legislation affecting the welfare of Arlington County; to assist the Federation in developing and presenting its position on such legislation; and to advise the Federation on legal questions referred to it.

Form of Government Subcommittee. The Form of Government Subcommittee continues the work started by the Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER). The membership of this committee shall include individuals, including members of TiGER, with a wide variety of opinions on governance within the community. The new Subcommittee may convene public educational meetings both alone and in concert with other organizations and provide speakers for civic associations and other groups within Arlington. Subject to the approval of the Board and Membership of ACCF, the Subcommittee shall identify and advocate for state and county legislative initiatives and actions which would further the spirit of the goals originally identified by TiGER. The Subcommittee Chair shall coordinate with and report through the Legislation Committee Chair.

FY2026 Report

David Shutz, Chair & Subcommittee Chair

legislation.chair@civfed.org

In September the Legislative Committee reviewed the previous year's legislative requests and County recommendations and solicited recommendations from CivFed committees and members.

Based on its review and recommendations, the Committee prepared a resolution, including the 2026 recommendations, that was introduced at the October 14 General Membership Meeting and adopted at the November 11 meeting. The legislative requests in the resolution included:

- Request to give Arlington authorization to make changes in the form of government, i.e., the number of County and School Board Members and their terms of office, at a level of authorization comparable to other jurisdictions;
- Seek authority for Arlington to adopt building and land use codes to support climate action for stormwater mitigation and for greater authority for reforestation, preservation, and management of urban trees and forests; and
- Seek authority to put speed cameras in any location in the county



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The Committee supported advocating the ACCF legislative agenda to both the County Board and State legislative delegation."

The Committee advocated for consideration by the County Board and engagement of the community on the Form of Government through multiple presentations to both. The County Board adopted a six-month time frame for studying the issue and how to proceed. The Committee will follow up to get the board response and will develop a response for ACCF when the board provides its plan.

Looking forward, the Committee will focus now on developing 2027 legislative requests. The 'due date' for the legislative agenda is effectively mid-Fall to influence the legislative priorities of the County and School Boards.



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E. Parks and Recreation Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to consider and report on all matters pertaining to parks, public recreation, establishment and maintenance of public recreational facilities, and planning for public recreation programs. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with appropriate county officials and private bodies dealing with parks and recreation.

FY2026 Report

This committee was not active in 2026. Activities related to this charge have been assigned as needed to other committees. If you are interested in helping reinvigorate the committee, please contact Jackie Snelling at bod.orgdev@civfed.org.

Note: It is expected that this committee will reconvene with new chairs in September 2026.



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F. Planning and Zoning Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and make recommendations to the Federation on:

- as appropriate, all applications for rezoning, site plans, and variances in Arlington County,
- all changes to the zoning ordinances and land use plans so that appropriate and timely action may be taken by the Federation,
- all matters pertaining to long-range community planning and development, including current programs and new projects.

The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with official bodies locally and in the surrounding jurisdictions. Because Planning and Zoning policy is closely tied with housing policy, it is expected to work closely with the Housing Committee.

FY2026 Report

Brian Harner, Chair

plan.zone.chair@civfed.org

Bill Richardson, Chair, Subcommittee on Lot Coverage, height, and setbacks,

lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org

Jack Spilsbury, Chair, Subcommittee on General Land Use Plan Change process,

glup.sc.chair@civfed.org

The Planning and Zoning Committee was active in 2025-2026 with review of the Arlington County Comprehensive Plan and the Low Residential Study. In particular, the two subcommittees of the P&Z Committee successfully tackled several key issues during the year.

At the November 2025 Civic Federation meeting, the P&Z Committee participated in preparation for and moderation of a developer roundtable discussing the current environment for commercial real estate in Arlington, challenges facing new project development, and how community members can effectively participate in project reviews. Participants included Marie-Claire Burick of Rosslyn Renaissance, Marc McCauley of the Arlington County Department of Economic Development, Kedrick Whitmore, land use attorney with Venable, LLP, and Casey Nolan, CRC Companies and President of the Clarendon Alliance.



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Led by Jack Spilsbury, in 2025 the General Land Use Plan Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Committee drafted a comprehensive Civic Federation resolution to “Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes.” This resolution outlined recommendations for more open and transparent Arlington County development review processes, including strengthening community participation and input, posting of materials, and staff reporting on community input. The resolution also calls for a more direct discussion of the proposed changes in the principles of the Comprehensive Plan. The resolution was adopted at the June 2025 General Membership meeting.

In 2026, the Lot Coverage, Height, and Setbacks Subcommittee, led by Bill Richardson, worked to draft a resolution “Regarding A Study of Lot Coverage/Height/Setback Provisions of Zoning Ordinance” to address community concerns about the on-going Arlington County Low Residential Study and the critical need to examine residential lot coverage standards relative to environmental protection and control of excessive building bulk. This resolution was introduced at the May 2026 general membership meeting for consideration, and general membership voted to adopt it at the subsequent June 2026 general membership meeting.

In Spring 2026, the Planning and Zoning Committee supported CivFed leadership in preparing letters to the Arlington County Board and Virginia Governor Spanberger on SB388 which limited local planning and zoning authority over certain local properties used for the development of affordable housing.

The Planning and Zoning Committee is grateful for the participation of all Civic Federation members in committee and subcommittee meetings over the past year, and the input and refinements to the two important draft resolutions adopted in the past year. We look forward to continuing work on process transparency in the Comprehensive Plan principles and process, input to Arlington County’s updates to its General Land Use Plan, and improvements to the Low Residential study, among other important issues, through the remainder of 2026 and into 2027.

The General Land Use Plan subcommittee will track the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development’s action plan in response to the County Auditor’s recent report on community benefits required of developers. The action plan responds to the audit’s recommendations for strengthening oversight, transparency, and public input into the County’s system for delivering public benefits. We also hope to work in coordination with other Civic Federation committees to provide input to the County Board on its implementation of a number of new laws enacted by the General Assembly in 2026 that affect local planning and zoning authority.



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G. Public Services Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study and report on public services such as utilities, health, welfare and human resources, and public safety. Specific areas of responsibility include:

- matters related to gas, electricity, telephone companies, ISPs, cable television, mail service, and site regulations and services;
- public health, welfare and rehabilitation, hospital and rehabilitation facilities;
- fire and police protection and traffic regulations; and
- organization, administration, and the procedures of local government and the operation of county-owned utilities.

FY2026 Report

John Ford, Chair

John Ford, Chair, Subcommittee on Stormwater,

public.services.chair@civfed.org

Michael McMenamin, Chair Subcommittee on Public Safety

public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org

Allan Gajadhar, Chair Subcommittee on Health & Well-being

mental.health.sc.chair@civfed.org

Stormwater Subcommittee

John Ford, Chair

Civ Fed's stormwater committee, formed in the wake of the catastrophic July 2019 floods that inundated many areas of Arlington County, serves as the principal point of contact between county planners and the broader community.

Members of the Civ Fed stormwater committee continued this past year to meet at regular six-week intervals with key members of the county Department of Environmental Services staff to review DES projects and initiatives throughout the major watersheds in the county.

The stormwater committee also facilitated and attended periodic meetings between DES staff and representatives from civic associations affected by stormwater planning, including SPRC meetings and watershed-wide information sessions.



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Public Safety Subcommittee

Mike McMenamin, Chair

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) Public Safety Committee is collaborating with the Arlington County Police Department's Community Outreach Unit (Community Outreach Unit) to strengthen community relationships and enhance public safety. This potential partnership allows for open dialogue, addresses safety concerns, and shares crime prevention tips.

The Community Outreach Unit's current Key Initiatives - Quarterly Community Meetings: Officers present local crime trends and provide transportation safety tips, encouraging resident participation. - Immersive Academies: The Community Police Academy educates participants about patrol operations, while summer safety camps promote youth awareness. - Informal Socials: Events like "Coffee with a Cop" facilitate relaxed conversations between residents and police personnel. - Safety Campaigns: Local participation in National Night Out helps promote neighborhood camaraderie and home security awareness.

In a recent meeting with Deputy Chief Dave Giroux, the Public Safety Committee discussed planning another forum for the Community Outreach Unit at an upcoming ACCF meeting this fall. This forum will address crime-related topics and give the Community Outreach Unit an opportunity to engage with ACCF members and residents, answer questions, and foster a discussion for a safer Arlington by highlighting community issues.

Health and Well-being Subcommittee

Allan Gajadhar, Chair

The wellness committee was newly constituted for this year, to cover all aspects of wellness, including mental health and health and human services.

We held an initial meeting to discuss areas of focus, including wellness for seniors/aging adults; children and youth, and overall mental health.

At the April Civfed membership meeting, we held a panel covering Arlington's mental health services, with a focus on mental health, wellbeing, and their intersection with the justice system. Arlington's Sequential Intercept Model continues to serve as a strong example of cross-agency collaboration.



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The panel, moderated by Rebecca Kiessling, Executive Director NAMI Northern Virginia, discussed mental health needs, crisis response, and what happens when mental health meets the criminal justice system.

An important goal is to ask if and how treatment can replace punishment?

Panelists included:

- Sheriff Jose Quiroz
- Dr. Richard Malish, Chief Medical Director, Office of the Sheriff
- Deb Warren, Community Service Board (CSB) Executive Director
- Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) Director
- Grace Woodward, Diversion Program Director, Commonwealth Attorney's Office

Plans for next year

We will focus on wellness for seniors/aging adults, and mental health for youth and children, including school-based offerings.



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H. Revenues and Expenditures Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to evaluate and report on the revenues and expenditures of the local government. The committee shall review annual budget proposals, long-range fiscal planning, and such related matters as may be referred to it.

FY2026 Report

Suzanne Sundburg, Point of Contact

rev.expend.chair@civfed.org

Throughout the year, the Revenues & Expenditures Committee provides notice of county meetings, reports, program/policy changes and other fiscally related matters to the ACCF president,, board chair and applicable committee chairs. R&E provides ongoing analysis and responds to members' queries to help the organization as a whole better understand the county's voluminous budget and complex fiscal matters as they relate to Arlington residents and businesses.

In fiscal year (FY) 2025, Revenues and Expenditures (R&E) Committee members included Jerry Auten, Duke Banks, Rick Epstein, Dixie Duncan, Juliet Hiznay, Dick McNamara, Roger Morton, Terry Showman, Mona Steffen, John Tuohy, John Vihstadt, Tina Worden, and committee point of contact Suzanne Smith Sundburg. [Noted: member John Tuohy (see bio on p. 5), a former Deputy County Treasurer, passed away in early 2026.]

Primary topics discussed by R&E included:

- Impacts of federal job cuts (employees and contractors)
- Elimination of federal offices/agencies in the region; and
- Federal grant cuts on the local budget, regional economy and state finances.

Also reviewed were the FY2025 budget's closeout report (with carryover funds for FY2027) in addition to the County Manager's FY2027 proposed budget and tax/fee increases. Other topics were the gloomy FY2026 mid-year report, the ballooning taxpayer support of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, and a brief overview of the County Manager's proposed FY2027–FY2036 CIP.

Please see the Revenues and Expenditures Committee Activities/Highlights in FY2026 found [here](#).



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I. Schools Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and make recommendations to the Federation on all matters pertaining to schools. The committee should make budget recommendations in collaboration with the Revenues and Expenditures Committee.

FY2026 Report

Todd Truitt, Chair

schools.chair@civfed.org

Other Members: Lois Koontz, Alex Stevens, Allan Gajadhar, June Prakash, Greg John, Claire Noakes, Dima Hakura, Sasha McNickle, and Cynthia Hilton.

The main CivFed Schools Committee Event was its Arlington Public Schools (APS) School Board Forum which required extensive coordination with the offices of the School Superintendent, Board and CivFed Officers. Activities associated with this well-attended event included:

- Todd Truitt, Committee Chair, coordinated with the Superintendent's office and the School Board's secretary to schedule their appearances
- Schools Committee prepared schools-related questions, with a focus on the APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which were sent to the Superintendent and School Board prior to the Candidate Forum
- Todd Truitt was the MC of the fall School Board candidate forum and conducted an audience Q&A
- Civfed received very positive feedback from its delegates on the Forum
- Schools Committee proposed and revised, and CivFed passed, the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution in the APS CIP.

Schools Committee Meetings:

- Multiple meetings were conducted in person, via Zoom and email,
- We met to identify and prepare questions on topics of interest to the community, especially the CivFed membership, to present to the School Superintendent and Board prior to the CivFed School Board Forum
- Similar meetings were conducted to draft, revise and implement the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution.



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Plans for Next Year

- Continue work on the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution
- Identify and address other emergent APS issues
- Prepare for Schools Forum with the School Superintendent and Board at CivFed.



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J. Transportation Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and make recommendations on all matters relating to the mobility of citizens and freight traffic within and through Arlington. These shall include, but not be limited to, rail transit, air transport, streets and highways, bridges and other water crossings, sidewalks, terminals, and parking facilities, bus lines, taxi services, and any other related matters referred to it by the Federation. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with official bodies locally and in the surrounding jurisdictions.

FY2026 Report

Nicole Toulouse, Chair

transport.chair@civfed.org

- August: The ACCF President Nick Giacobbe appointed, and the Board confirmed, Nicole Toulouse to chair a re-constituted ACCF Transportation Committee.
- Sept 4: The ACCF Chair kicked off the rejuvenated Transportation Committee with an agenda and discussion of the priorities for the year and implementation by developing a draft resolution to establish the ACCF transportation policy framework. Committee meetings throughout the year focused on identifying priorities and drafting a resolution.
- Oct 14: Presentation on Transportation to the General Membership by Hui Wang, Chief Deputy Director – Public Works, Utilities and Transportation Presentation [PDF, 4,2 MiB]. The presentation provided an overview of the department and how the public can engage on areas of interest. The Committee supported the planning for the presentation that was moderated by Chair Nicole.
- Feb 17: Work session with the Board. Representing the committee, the chair asked questions and stimulated discussion with the board members on the status of coordination with VDOT, and the importance of improving the planning and transparency of implementation timelines and funding related to identified needs in Vision Zero and follow up with neighborhoods on these identified needs.
- March 10 Resolution introduced: At the March 2026 General Membership Meeting, the committee introduced a new draft resolution on Safe, Equitable, and Accountable Transportation. It addressed major transportation planning efforts that are underway including Arlington's Transportation Future and Vision Zero. It also provided general recommendations on transportation related feedback for site plans and the many projects and plans involving VDOT-owned roads.
- April 14 Resolution adopted: At the April General Membership Meeting, the Committee presented an updated resolution that was adopted as amend by the General Membership.



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- April 2026 – The Committee facilitated the president in drafting and sending a letter to County Board re the CIP priorities based on the adopted resolution
- Next year: For 2027, the Committee will focus on follow up to advocate and support the County and VDOT implementation of the priority actions in the adopted resolution including application to specific priorities and locations with transportation and safety factors.