

2022 General Assembly Priorities for Northampton County

1. Northampton County and Accomack County schools lose a significant number of new teachers each year to other states such as Maryland due to lack of competitive salaries. We support having the Cost of Competing salary adjustments for both Accomack and Northampton County school districts.
2. Northampton County is economically connected to its waterways. Acquiring and maintaining beaches, boat ramps, marinas, and dredged channels is very costly. Northampton County supports the Commonwealth providing sustainable funding for waterway communities to build and maintain infrastructure which is critical to our economy and culture.
3. Local sanitary sewer system such as Cape Charles and Exmore are struggling to upgrade their systems which have inflow and infiltration issues. This causes backups and overflows which can negatively impact the Bay, ocean and groundwater. Last year, the State budget included funds for cities such as Lynchburg, Richmond and Alexandria to address similar issues because of their impact on the Bay. We are requesting the same assistance for our Towns.
4. There is a continued need for housing which is suitable and priced for full-time workers such as teachers, deputies, hospitality workers, and other mid-level employees. The County is looking to work with the Towns and businesses to address this situation by facilitating the construction of housing suitable for that market. We are hampered by the high costs of construction on the Shore and the high level of regulation. We are requesting assistance from the Commonwealth in the form of grants and no-interest loans to finance the initial projects.
5. Northampton County and its incorporated Towns have problems with drainage, deteriorating sidewalks, and poor road conditions which are caused to some degree by insufficient funding for VDOT maintenance operations. We encourage the State to increase funding for VDOT maintenance operations to allow them to address these concerns.

Approved by consensus vote of the Board on October 26, 2021.