



DRAFT AGENDA
June 25 - 26
Sweet Briar College
134 Chapel Road, Sweet Briar, VA 24595
Amherst, VA

Check in at Sweet Briar College at the Inn after 3:00pm

Meet for ride to Dinner at – 5:15, with Dinner at 6 at Bon Fire (188 S. Main St)

Meeting begins with Breakfast at 8:00am on Friday June 26th

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Minutes – February, May**
- III. Discussion of Amicus Request from the Town of Purcellville**
- IV. Strategic Plan – Spark Mill**
- V. Future Meetings**
 - a. October 9th, Norfolk
 - b. February 4th – 5th Legislative Day (tentative)
 - c. May/June (TBD)
 - d. October, Richmond

MEETING RHYTHM

Meeting 1 – June - Strategic Planning Retreat (Richmond)

Create annual workplan (incl. revenue, programming, etc.)
Approve Budget

Meeting 2 – October (Conference location)

Next year's dates

Meeting 3 – December (President's Locality)

Celebrate President's Locality

Meeting 4 – January/February (Richmond)

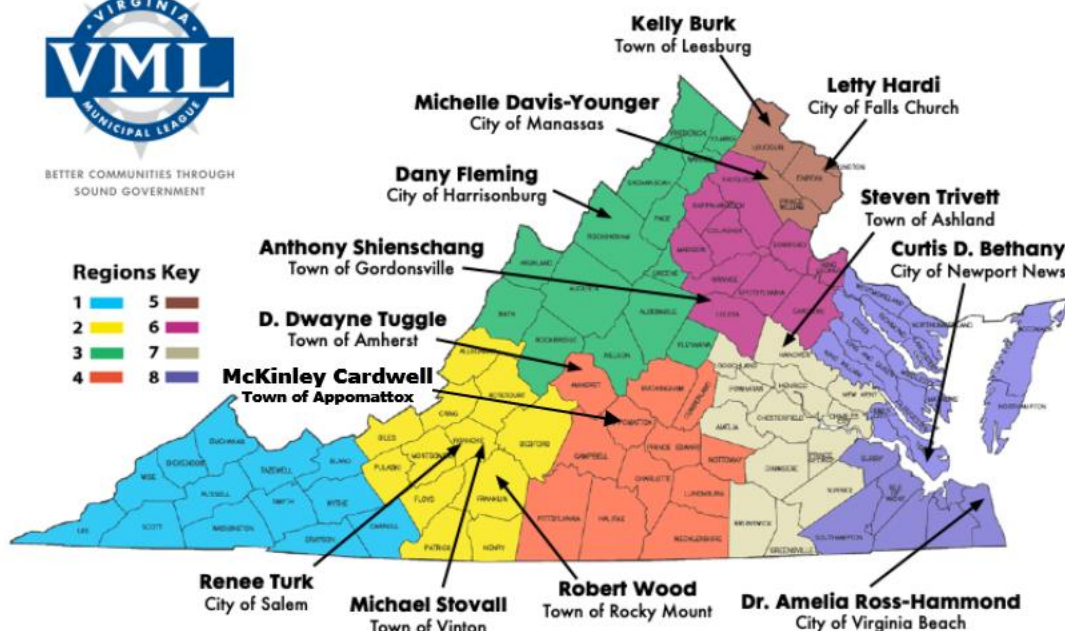
Legislative Update

VML Board of Directors

as of May 2026



BETTER COMMUNITIES THROUGH
SOUND GOVERNMENT



STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1. Elevate the Impact of Local Government by Strengthening Relationships with and Between Municipalities**
 - 1.1. Increase connection with our locality members across the state
 - 1.2. Grow our outreach and support with municipal staffs
 - 1.3. Facilitate collaborative peer-to-peer connections
- 2. Accelerate Local Elected Official and Municipal Staff Impact Through Expanded Value-Added Programming**
 - 2.1. Expand support for newly elected officials
 - 2.2. Bolster education through strategic partnerships with higher education
 - 2.3. Maintain strong advocacy efforts and grow member voice with the General Assembly
 - 2.4. Emphasize member localities' leading practices and successes
 - 2.5. Establish member connections leveraging 21st century communication
- 3. Cultivate 21st Century Leadership By Streamlining Our Governance Structure**
 - 3.1. Update our governance structure to include a broader range of municipal voices
 - 3.2. Designate and articulate clear entry-points and pathways for leadership participation by members
 - 3.3. Fully deploy and empower VML staff
 - 3.4. Renew membership categories for broader participation and engagement
- 4. Support Strategic Initiatives Through Organizational Strength**
 - 4.1. Align current and new staff to support stronger relationships and member value
 - 4.2. Cultivate a strong brand through focused and strategic communication
 - 4.3. Re-envision the annual conference to strengthen relationships, engage members, and equip members for excellent leadership

PROCEDURE FOR
SUBMISSION OF AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS
Adopted June 2025

I. PROCEDURE

A. Preferred Procedure

The procedure for reviewing a request or proposal for the Virginia Municipal League to submit an amicus curiae brief shall, be as follows:

1. A request for amicus participation may be submitted to the league by any league member or non-member local government or political subdivision. Further, a proposal to participate as amicus in a case may be initiated by league staff. If a League member locality is a party to an action and a request for the filing of an amicus brief comes from a party other than that member locality, staff shall notify the chief elected official, chief administrative officer or attorney of the member locality that a request for amicus participation has been presented to the League.
2. The request should be submitted in writing, addressed to the general counsel. The request should explain the factual background of the case, the procedural posture of the case, the legal issues raised, and include a statement of the statewide implication and importance of the issues raised. The request shall include a copy of relevant pleadings, briefs, orders, decisions and related documentation. A member locality should bring a request for amicus participation as early as possible.
3. The general counsel will evaluate the request and advise the executive director and Board of Directors, which will consider the request at its next meeting, or by other means if an earlier decision is required.

B. Emergency Consideration

When there is not sufficient time for full consideration under the procedure outlined in subsection A above, a case may be considered for participation under the following procedure:

1. The general counsel shall review the case and prepare a recommendation to the executive director. The general counsel and executive director will decide on whether to file an appeal. Further, the executive director may poll the members of the Board of Directors for guidance and a decision on the request.

2. Any decision made as an emergency case shall be reviewed by the full Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.

II. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION AS AMICUS

A. Factors to Be Considered

Whenever there is a request or proposal that the league participate as an amicus party in a case, the following factors shall be considered in determining whether to submit an amicus curiae brief:

1. Whether the case has statewide implications for Virginia's cities, towns and counties.
2. The importance of the issues raised in the case to the operation of local government and possible financial impact on local governments.
3. Whether the appeal involves a significant question of law for Virginia's local governments.
4. Whether the participation by VML would have a positive effect on the outcome of the case and the likelihood of success in the appeal.
5. Whether there is sufficient time to adequately prepare a brief and available funds to pay the costs of the brief by competent counsel.
6. Whether the Local Government Attorneys and/or the Virginia Association of Counties are participating.
7. Is there an opportunity for cost-sharing.

Participation shall normally be reserved for cases filed in the Virginia Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The League may authorize participation in a case filed in federal courts if circumstances exist which indicate that participation is appropriate.

B. Consideration of the Factors

In considering whether to approve a request or proposal to participate as an amicus party in any case, staff and the Board of Directors shall consider each of the factors listed above. No single factor should be determinative standing alone. All of the factors should be considered as a whole in reaching a decision, unless a single factor indicates that the case is inappropriate for participation. In all

instances, the best interests of the cities, towns and counties of Virginia shall be the final basis of decision.

III. PREPARATION AND COSTS OF BRIEFS

A. Counsel

1. If the Board of Directors approves participation in an amicus brief, it may authorize the Executive Director to retain outside counsel for that purpose or may seek assistance from a locality's legal staff or other attorney. A firm which represents the party municipality in the case at issue may be retained if appropriate.

2. The shall advise outside counsel on the desired contents of the League amicus brief, and shall review the final product thoroughly before filing.

3. VML may participate in an amicus brief with other parties and may share the brief writing duties with the other participants.

B. Legal Fees

1. Fees should be used when appropriate with cost-sharing and/or mitigation of the costs being documented.

MINUTES
VML BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN RICHMOND
February 4, 2026

In attendance: Dwayne Tuggle (arrived 5:35 p.m.), Kelly Burke, Curtis Bethany, Steve Trivett, Dr. Amelia Ross Hammond, Anthony Schienschang, Robert Wood, Michelle Davis-Younger (arrived 5:30 p.m.), Letty Hardi, Dany Fleming, Renee Turk, Michael Stovall, Michelle Gowdy (Executive Director, arrived 5:35 p.m.), Rebecca Rowe (Chief Administrative Officer), Danielle Powell (Counsel), Janet Arenson (Director of Policy Development), Joe Flores (Director of Fiscal Policy), Josette Bulova (Policy Communications Coordinator), Mitchell Smiley (Transportation and Natural Resources Policy Manager)

Call to Order: President Elect Burk called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes: The Board considered minutes from their October meeting and two January meetings. A motion to approve was made and passed unanimously.

Staff General Assembly Updates: VML's Policy Team provided updates on the current General Assembly session including proposed legislation on juvenile detention, grocery tax repeal, cannabis, photo speed enforcement, satellite and absentee voting hours and location, and municipal employees holding elected office for the same locality.

Proposal by Sorensen: the Board discussed providing scholarship funding to the Sorensen Institute and will consider the request as a part of the adoption of the FY 2027 budget.

Strategic Plan Follow Up – Financials and Budget: The Board considered the recommendation to accept a settlement with Compass regarding a potential lawsuit that occurred in 2024 and 2025. There was a motion to accept the settlement and the vote was 9-3 in favor of the motion.

Staff provided an update on new processes and procedures in VML's financial operations.

Future Meetings: the Board reviewed the upcoming calendar of meetings, including the June meeting to be held at Sweet Briar College.

Board Vacancy: the Board discussed Board member Becky Nave stepping down from Town Council, which made her ineligible to continue as a Board member. There was a motion to add McKinley Cardwell to the Board for the remainder of Becky Nave's term. There was a motion to approve which passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

**MINUTES
VML BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PHONE CALL
May 28, 2026, via Zoom**

In attendance: Dwayne Tuggle, Mike Stovall, Kelly Burk, Letty Hardi, Renee Turk, Curtis Bethany, Robert Wood, Dany Fleming, Anthony Schienschang, Michelle Gowdy (Executive Director), Rebecca Rowe (Chief Administrative Officer)

Call to Order: President Tuggle called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

Review of 2027 Proposed Budget: A summary of the proposed budget was presented by Ms. Rowe. General Discussion occurred. A motion was made to pass the budget, and it passed with one person voting no.

VML/VACo Resolution: Ms. Gowdy explained the reasoning for the VML/VACo resolution asking for an ex officio seat on the OPEB Trust board. General Discussion occurred and a motion was made and passed unanimously approving the resolution.

Bryan Turner of the Marquis Law Group came on the call at 2:30pm to review the lawsuit Erin Rayner, et.al. v. Town of Purcellville, VA (case number CL25-6672) and their request for funding the next stage of the appeal. General Discussion occurred and it was agreed that this would be discussed again in person at the Board Retreat.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gowdy
Executive Director

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

FY 2026 Budget v. Actuals

July 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026

	FY 2026 Budget	July 2025 - May 2026 Actuals	
Revenue			
4120 Investment Income	158,000.00	142,881.92	
4180 Miscellaneous Income	7,575.00	94,571.62	Includes \$90,000 fraud settlement payment
Advocacy			
4070 Local Government Day	22,000.00	26,030.00	
4320 Rent Payments During GA	14,500.00	14,000.00	
Total Advocacy	\$ 36,500.00	40,030.00	
Affiliated Groups	0.00		
4135 AEP Administrative Fee	13,261.25	13,261.00	
4136 VBCOA Administrative Fee	24,720.00	24,720.00	
4137 VLGMA Administrative Fee	14,200.00	14,626.00	
4138 MEPAV Administrative Fee	11,536.00	11,536.00	
4145 VEPGA Administration Fee	46,350.00	46,350.00	
Total Affiliated Groups	\$ 110,067.25	110,493.00	
Annual Conference	0.00		
4050 Conference Registration	160,000.00	137,775.00	
4055 Conference Sponsorship	165,000.00	2,500.00	
4061 Mayor's Institute	17,000.00	-	
Total Annual Conference	\$ 342,000.00	140,275.00	
Membership Dues	0.00		
4000 Regular Dues	1,438,473.88	1,265,320.45	Separates Municipal dues
4010 Associate Dues	100,000.00	105,703.00	and
4030 Sustaining Dues	10,000.00	203,500.00	Community Business Partnerships
Total Membership Dues	\$ 1,548,473.88	1,574,523.45	also VH FY 2027 payment of \$30,000
Publications	0.00		
4090 VTC Advertising	5,000.00	720.00	
4185 VTC Subscriptions	150.00	176.00	
4290 Online Classified Advertising	25,000.00	12,696.80	

Total Publications	\$ 30,150.00	13,592.80	
Sponsorships	0.00		
4095 VML Bond/Finance Program	175,000.00	209,194.44	
4150 Insurance Programs	750,000.00	750,000.00	
4200 US Communities Program	20,000.00	37,584.98	
Total Sponsorships	\$ 945,000.00	996,779.42	
Workshops/Seminars	0.00		
4130 Other Workshops/Seminars	3,500.00	24,670.00	Includes Emerging Technology and Small Towns Conferences
4190 Newly Elected Officials	10,000.00	6,430.00	
4295 Regional Suppers	0.00		
Total Workshops/Seminars	\$ 13,500.00	31,100.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 3,191,266.13	\$ 3,144,247.21	
Gross Profit	\$ 3,191,266.13	\$ 3,144,247.21	
Expenditures			
Total Advocacy Expenses	\$ 206,000.00	111,271.56	
Total Annual Conference Expenses	\$ 342,000.00	210,176.80	
Total Compensation and Benefits	\$ 1,644,035.89	1,653,327.93	
Total Executive Committee	\$ 23,500.00	18,200.56	
Total General Operating Expenses	\$ 596,900.00	\$ 589,455.16	
Total Miscellaneous	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 47,182.47	
Total Publications Expenses	\$ 85,400.00	\$ 39,501.29	
Total Workshops/Seminars expenses	\$ 22,300.00	\$ 41,346.89	Emerging Tech and Small Towns
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,065,135.89	\$ 2,710,462.66	
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 126,130.23	\$ 433,784.55	
Net Revenue	\$ 126,130.23	\$ 433,784.55	