

# 2025 General Assembly Legislative Package

## LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

### RECOGNIZE AND STRENGTHEN STATE PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCALITIES

#### The City supports...

- the preservation of existing state aid to localities.
- the full funding of all state funding commitments to localities and opposes efforts to shift the costs of shared services to localities.
- legislation and funding that fully fund K-12 education and acknowledge the true cost of K-12 education funding.
- efforts to ensure that our schools are safe and in good condition, free of environmental health and other hazards.
- legislation and appropriations that fund or remove unfunded mandates from our local government, provide additional revenue or revenue authority to support core municipal operations and services, and support the City's facility needs and plans.
- the Commonwealth's partnership in efforts to attract and retain small and local businesses throughout our City and to cultivate economic development opportunities in our community.
- partnerships with the state that support and fund compensation, healthcare, and mental health care for the childcare workforce.

### PRESERVE AND EXPAND LOCAL AUTHORITY AND FUNDING FOR LOCALITIES

#### The City supports...

- additional local tools for affordable housing that safeguard local authority to plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations, without restricting local zoning authority or the zoning process.
- legislation to protect and expand accessibility Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) funding in support of low- and no-fare public transit programs.

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### ENHANCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

#### The City Supports...

- efforts to mitigate inland flooding and funding opportunities to improve and modernize infrastructure to adequately address inland flooding.
- State funded quality school lunches to be offered at no cost to students.
- legislative protections for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in universities, governments, businesses, and non-profits.
- efforts to achieve equity in our health system, expand access to reproductive health services and information.
- efforts to simplify access to contraception and eliminate cost barriers.
- legislation that promotes the mental and physical well-being of every resident in our community, provides a system of support for residents with behavioral health needs, and comprehensive crisis mental health care specifically for youth/adolescents.
- efforts in the General Assembly to identify and maintain adequate resources to respond to the emergent needs of residents experiencing a mental health emergency, including increasing the number of psychiatric beds available in the Commonwealth.
- efforts to separate access to behavioral health services, care, and support from the criminal justice system.
- legislation and budget items necessary to ensure all residents have access to resources shown to prevent early death and disability and promote resilience.
- a Constitutional amendment to automatically restore the voting rights of people convicted of felonies when they return to society, and legislation and funding to ensure access to voting for all Virginia citizens.
- legislation to ensure immigrants, refugees, and their families can fully participate in the economic, civic, social, and cultural life of our city and our Commonwealth.
- legislation to protect vulnerable road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians, and help us achieve our Vision Zero goals.
- legislation and budget priorities that ensure Alexandria has safe, reliable and frequent mobility choices regardless of resources or ability and provide a wide

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variety of safe, connected, multimodal transportation options in our city that enable access to daily activities in our community and our region.

- common sense gun safety legislation, especially efforts that focus on youth access to firearms.
- efforts to ensure that marijuana legalization efforts include protections for children and youth.
- legislation to enhance building safety in the Commonwealth, particularly in high-rise buildings.
- efforts to make membership on public bodies more accessible to residents.
- legislation to enhance the ability to enforce local human rights ordinances.

## PROTECT AND SUPPORT VULNERABLE AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

### The City Supports...

- a Constitutional amendment that provides every individual the fundamental right to reproductive freedom that cannot be denied, burdened, or otherwise infringed upon by the Commonwealth.
- legislation and funding that supports quality care and helps City staff protect the most vulnerable members of our community, including children, older adults, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, individuals in behavioral health crisis, and those of differing abilities.
- efforts to protect and support transgender and non-binary students in our schools and reinforce school boards in their efforts to allow LGBTQ+ students freedom of expression and ensure their safety.
- a Constitutional amendment that protects marriage equality and repeals the ban on same-sex marriage.
- efforts to increase access to and affordability of high-quality early childhood education and childcare, invest in Pre-K programs, encourage flexibility and creativity in the delivery of Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) programs in our community, and ensure VPI policies and systems promote, rather than limit, parental choice.
- efforts to encourage and incentivize family-friendly workplace policies in businesses throughout the Commonwealth, including the need for paid family leave for all workers.

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- efforts to protect vulnerable residents who may be precariously housed or living in affordable or subsidized housing in our community.
- increased state funding for core Area on Aging Services in response to the growing older adult population.
- efforts to invest in maternal and child health, especially in addressing BIPOC maternal health disparities and disproportionate pregnancy outcomes, and in expanding and diversifying the perinatal workforce.
- legislation to enact a state prevailing wage and protect workers from wage theft.
- Increasing the monthly SNAP benefit to \$50 for all recipients.
- legislation that reforms our criminal justice system, so it operates fairly and equitably for all members of our community.
- legislation that assists in the deployment of universal, affordable access to broadband technology, in both unserved and underserved areas, and efforts to ensure a fair and open Internet.

## IMPROVE RESILIENCE, PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND ENCOURAGE CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT

### ***The City Supports...***

- legislation and the funding necessary to plan for and mitigate urban and inland flooding that is often the result of climate-triggered historic rain events.
- legislation that assists in our efforts to expand our tree canopy, attain clean air and clean waterways, and increase recycling in the Commonwealth.
- efforts at the General Assembly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth 50% by 2030, including efforts to decarbonize the statewide electricity supply, give communities choice over their electricity supply, and other policy strategies included in the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040.