

Preparing for the 2025 General Assembly Session

“One Richmond” Proposed 2025 Legislative Program

Kathy Burcher

Advantus Strategies

October 2024

Program Development Process

- Review of 2024 Legislative Program Success/Challenges
- Intensive conversation at the City Council Advance
- One-on-one meetings with City Council members
- Weekly meetings with the Administration
- Meetings with members of the City's General Assembly Delegation

Telling Richmond's Story

- Recognize the unique needs of Virginia's historic, Capital city
- Highlight the good work happening in the City
- Remove deficit language
- Clearly articulate the authority that the City needs to move our work forward

One Richmond- Legislative Priorities *Legislation TO BE INITIATED by the City- 4 Items*

Affordable Housing- Long-term Owner Occupancy Program:

- The City will initiate legislation requesting a Constitutional Amendment to give local governments full authority over property tax exemptions and tools to combat gentrification by creating the authority to establish a Long-term Owner Occupancy (LOOP) Program.
- OR The City will initiate study legislation on the LOOP Program.

~~**Affordable Housing Authority Granted to the Richmond:**~~

- ~~▪ The City will initiate legislation add the city to the list of localities that are authorized to provide an affordable housing unit dwelling program.~~
- ~~➤ OR the City will initiate legislation to amend § 15.2-2305.1 to update the density bonuses currently allowed in the affordable housing dwelling unit program.~~

One Richmond- Legislative Priorities

Legislation TO BE INITIATED by the City

Expansion of Speed Cameras:

- The City will initiate legislation to expand the authority to use speed cameras on college campuses.

Sales Tax Capture for the Issuance of Bonds:

- The City will initiate legislation to amend section § 58.1-608.3 (Entitlement to certain sales tax revenues) to extend dates for the issuance of bonds.

One Richmond Budget Priority

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project

Richmond requests additional state funding of \$100 million in FY25 and \$150 million in FY26 to support the implementation of the city's Final Plan.

Our Senate Delegation

Senator Ghazala Hashmi (D)- *Senior Senator*
15th District

Legislative Aide: June Laffey

Committee Assignments

Education & Health (Chair)
Finance and Appropriations
Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources
Rules
Transportation

Senator Lamont Bagby (D)
14th District

Legislative Aide: Michael Phillips

Committee Assignments

Commerce and Labor
Courts of Justice
Education & Health
Local Government
Transportation

Our House Delegation

Delegate Betsy B Carr (D) – *Senior Member of Delegation*

House District 69

Legislative Aide: Luke Sweeney

Committee Assignments

Appropriations

General Laws

Transportation

Delegate Rae Cousins (D) House District 79

Legislative Aide: Julianne McFarland

Committee Assignments

Courts of Justice

Education

Public Safety

Delegate Michael Jones (D) House District 77

Legislative Aide: Sasha Malakooti

Committee Assignments

Communications, Technology, and Innovation

Counties, Cities, and Towns (CCT)

Labor and Commerce

Next Steps Ahead of Session

- Adoption of the Final Program
- Meet with the General Assembly Delegation
- Finalize direction of the proposed legislative initiatives and determine patron strategies
- Build communication strategies for City officials, the Delegation, and any coalition partners. *This should include a full review of Housing authority already granted to the City.*
- Build support for the City's program AHEAD of January 8, 2025
- Monitor the Governor's Budget announcement on December 18

Questions