



City of Richmond City Council

General Assembly 2024

Legislative Program Draft

September 2, 2023

Overview to Legislative Program

- Meetings throughout the Summer and Fall 2023 with most all of City Council
- Your ideas, questions, problems and opportunities have informed the first draft program
- 2024 Session is a Long, 60 day Session
- Feels like they never left
 - Sept. 2023 budget adoption (7 months late)
- November 2023 Election – 140 Seats up for reelection in newly redistricted districts

Key Priorities

Budget

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

\$100 million appropriation in FY 2024 (caboose budget); \$100 million in FY 2025; \$100 million FY 2026. **[Admin]**

Eco-Tourism/James River Park System

\$15 million in state assistance during each year of the current biennium is requested for four eco-labs and two immersive historical sites located at Ancarrow's Landing and along the Richmond Slave Trail. **[Nye]**

City Street Maintenance Funds

As the seat of state government and the capital city of the Commonwealth, Richmond should receive separate funding in addition to the state street maintenance funding received from the state. **[Lynch/AR]**

Key Priorities

Bills

Charter

See RVA Charter Timeline & Decision Points

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

The City opposes any attempt to accelerate the current statutory Richmond CSO project completion timeline ahead of 2035.

Housing

Inclusionary zoning - Add the City of Richmond to the list of seven localities that can use § 15.2-2304 for inclusionary zoning. [Addison]

Long Term Owner Occupancy Program (LOOP) - Amend the Constitution of Virginia to Give Local Governments Control Over Property Tax Exemptions and Tools to Combat Gentrification – Create a Long- Term Owner Occupancy Program [Nye, Lambert]

K-12 Education

Increase Sales Tax - Add City of Richmond to the localities that can hold a referendum to ask voters to increase the sales tax by 1% to raise money for school construction and modernization. (SB1408/McPike) [Lambert]

Implement Two of the JLARC K-12 Funding Study Recommendations – 1) Consolidate two largest at-risk programs into **new SOQ At-Risk Program**

Implement an LCI calculation using a three-year average to alleviate the City of Richmond funding share with the state, especially since JLARC recognized that revenue capacity can even more accurately and fairly measure local ability to pay. The JLARC option to weigh population equally with ADM would better reflect overall local budget expenditures, not just school expenditures. [Lambert]

Public Safety/Transportation

Pedestrian/Public Safety Urban Institutions of Higher Education - Amend § 46.2-873, Maximum speed limits at school crossings, to include “students” in the definition of “school crossing zone” so that institutions of higher education (VCU/VUU) may be included in the areas where photo speed monitoring devices may be used.