

2022 Legislative Agenda for General Assembly

Councilmember Ann Frances Lambert

1. **Virtual Meetings:** In order to continue to have the ability to meet virtually, state legislation is needed so that legislative meetings and Boards & commissions can continue to meet virtually. **CM Lambert**
2. **Photo Speeding Enforcement***
The city administration has authority to launch this program in school and construction zones. Legislative request is to expand photo speeding enforcement to include residential neighborhoods, bridges, and park areas. **CM Lambert**
3. **Raising Council Salaries** – a) Raise Council salary to include its ability to raise it similar to Henrico County and with the salary level closer to Henrico. b) Provide payment for boards and commissions c) Recognizing Council's role as a full time job. **CM Lambert**
4. **Changing the local composite Index** (funding formula for RPS). **CM Lambert**
5. **Property Tax Relief***for Long Term Residents and/or those on fixed incomes. Should include those that don't meet requirements for senior tax relief Program. **CM Lambert**
6. **Expansion of Photo Speed Ticketing to Residential and Park areas***
Currently photo speed ticketing is limited to areas at/or near school zones. General Assembly action may be needed to expand the use of photo speed ticketing to residential areas and park areas. **(CM Lambert, CM Lynch)**
- 7.

Councilmember Michael Jones

8. The City of Richmond is requesting the authority to implement a real property tax relief program that is outside of the criteria of the senior citizen program to include persons under the age of 65 or who are disabled and meet who would meet the income eligibility guidelines (based on income). **(CM Jones, CM Robertson, CM Trammell, CM Lambert, CM Lynch CM Newbille)**

Councilmember Ellen Robertson

Poverty and Human Services

9. Poverty Reduction- re-authorize and expand the Dept. of Social Service TANF Grant supporting workforce development for 5 additional years. **CM Robertson**
10. Opioid addiction and recovery fund to address addictions in targeted areas without insurance persons or Medicaid coverage. **CM Robertson**
11. Implement a State Child Tax Credit for families of Poverty. **CM Robertson**

Education and Educational Supports

12. Increase the per student cost by the poverty rate for each school with the rate transferred with the student. **CM Robertson**

13. Educational grant funding for alternative education and enrichment programs for children not achieving grade level for reading and math to provide alternative options for education choices such as offering the per dollar amount allocated to students to be used for tuition in other education school choices. **CM Robertson**

Housing and Government

14. Amend the Community Revitalization and Affordable housing Fund to include using sources of funds from city appropriated revenue, and to allow the use of funds to be expanded to include housing services for any other innovative housing options to meeting affordable housing development and sustainability. **CM Robertson**
15. City authority to abate low-to-moderate income families real estate taxes in neighborhoods where the land value increased above 12% and/or greater than the overall city wide increase by 15%. **CM Robertson**
16. Require state opportunity zones to make investments within neighborhoods with severe economic inequality a requirement in Virginia as promised in the 2017 tax breaks zone in Virginia. **CM Robertson**
17. Give local government authority to abate or exempt non-profit and for profits housing coalition of real estate taxes on affordable housing up to 30 years. **CM Robertson**
18. Grant property owners the authority to abate taxes if properties are placed in a housing trust which guarantee affordable housing. **CM Robertson**
19. Legislation to support inclusive zoning and housing policies locally and regionally. **CM Robertson**
20. Increase low income tax credits to increase affordable housing for 60AMI and less. **CM Robertson**
21. Require all multi-family private and public developments to have open green space vs paved surface ratios in relationship to the population and/or the number of units within the boundaries of the development. **CM Robertson**

Government Policy

22. Require all local governments to have approved Standard Operational Procedures and updated annually. **CM Robertson**
23. Give local government and universities the authority to have more flexibility to use social criteria in procurement decisions to allow social enterprises and other firms committed to hiring local residents at living wages or above to be scored more highly in procurement scoring criteria. **CM Robertson**
24. To grant local authority to protect contract obligations with subcontractor meeting minority goal participation. **CM Robertson**
25. Authorize localities to provide performance grants for the development of affordable housing. **CM Robertson**
26. Create an urban initiative aimed at promoting weatherization of homes and training a green workforce. **CM Robertson**
27. Provide funding to renovate schools and public housing greater than 50 years of age. **CM Robertson**
28. Mandatory penalty for a convicted criminal who commit a crime with a gun and/or illegal gun to receive a mandatory penalty. **CM Robertson**
29. Mandatory paid sick leave or work leave for COVID-19 up to 72 hours post vaccine. **CM Robertson**

CM Katherine Jordan

Addressing unsafe vehicles and traffic safety:

30. Place limitations on size of modded/lifted trucks and vehicles that pose a danger to other motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. Regulate via yearly inspections. **CM Jordan**
31. Place limitations on modifications (mufflers etc) for any vehicles that increase emissions and/or sound and pose a danger to other motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. Regulate via yearly inspections. **CM Jordan**
32. Provide additional supports for localities enforcing the illegal use of ATVs, dirt bikes, and other non-road legal vehicles on public roads via grants for air and photo enforcement, and partnerships with Virginia State Police and VDOT. **CM Jordan**

Budgetary and regulatory supports for renewable energy and EV readiness:

33. State grant and financing supports for localities to pursue creation and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure and to incentivize transition of nonrenewable utilities/appliances/equipment to electric and renewable sources of energy. **CM Jordan**
34. State grant and financing supports for localities to pursue creation and maintenance of publicly owned electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and to fund incentives for private and residential development of EV readiness infrastructure. Additional bonuses for solar infrastructure. **CM Jordan**
35. Assist localities with the development of permitting processes for the provision of residential EV charging infrastructure. **CM Jordan**
36. Incentives for green stormwater management initiatives:
Provide funding for green stormwater capture and abatement initiatives such as green roofs, rain gardens, and biowales, as well as municipal depaving projects. **CM Jordan**
37. Create statewide incentive programs, either grants or tax credits, for funding for green stormwater capture and abatement initiatives such as green roofs, rain gardens, and bioswales, as well as municipal depaving projects. **CM Jordan**

CM Stephanie Lynch

38. Expansion of Photo Speed Ticketing to Residential and Park areas. Currently photo speed ticketing is limited to areas at/or near school zones. General Assembly action may be needed to expand the use of photo speed ticketing to residential areas and park areas. **CM Lambert, CM Lynch,**
39. Income Based Tax Abatement - implement a real property tax relief program that is outside of the criteria of the senior citizen program to include persons under the age of 65 or who are disabled and meet the income guidelines. **CM Lynch**
40. Provide funding for James River Master Plan eco and historical tourism. **CM Lynch**
41. Support group homes for adults with severe mental illness to allow use of the 1115 waiver to pay for residential services (Virginia does not pay reimbursement for severely mental illness) **CM Lynch**

CM Cynthia Newbille

42. **Mental Health** – The City supports additional funding in FY 2022-2023 for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to include: community based, recovery-focused mental health, substance abuse and emergency/crisis stabilization services; drug treatment facilities for individuals that have addiction problems but who are currently housed in jails or prisons; and mental health training, communication training for prison and jail staff. **CM Newbille**
43. **Virginia Grocery Investment Fund - Food Deserts**– The City supports “full” funding of \$5 million for the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund to include financial and technical support for businesses to expand and ensure greater access to healthy food for residents of the Commonwealth. **CM Newbille**
44. **Inclusionary Zoning/Affordable Housing** – The City of Richmond should be given the authority to adopt an affordable housing dwelling unit/inclusionary zoning program that is responsive to the demands of the Richmond market. **CM Newbille**
45. **Expand Medicaid** to Include Oral Health/Dental Services in the State Medicaid Plan- Support the inclusion of oral health and dental services for adults enrolled in Virginia’s Medicaid service plan. **CM Newbille**
46. **Local Composite Index of Ability to Pay* (LCI)** – Review the LCI formula to identify the demands on local revenue for serving a high percentage of at-risk children. The LCI formula is heavily weighted towards real property values, adjusted gross income and taxable sales. A few outliers can easily skew these factors resulting in a representation of greater wealth than actually exists. The formula also does not include elements that recognize the demands on local revenue for serving a high percentage of at-risk children. The LCI should be revised to include the additional demands on a division’s available local resources required to serve a large at-risk student population. **CM Newbille, CM Lambert**
47. **Health Equity Trust Fund**
Requesting the state to fund the Health Equity Trust Fund. **(CM Newbille)**

CM Trammell*

48. **Tax Relief Programs***- state based options that would help the City in granting tax relief to seniors and those under 65 and disabled who meet the income guidelines and criteria set for the senior tax relief program. **CM Trammell***

Some options discussed may require General Assembly action to initiate amendments to the State. For example, Can the age be lowered for senior tax relief? Can tax assessment be done every two years?

Questions:

CM Jorden would like to propose, either via the charter review, or via the Council re-org study process, the implementation of a Division of Legislative Services, whose sole role is to research legislative requests, draft legislation, and coordinate with Council and administration offices. This change would formally remove the drafting responsibility from the City Attorney’s office,

and would establish this office as an independent office within the Council organizational framework.

49. Are there additional state level legislative and budgetary tools to promote entry level and first time home ownership? And, have incentives for conversion of apartments to condos been explored as an option
50. Reform of Road-Way calculation of State Contribution to the City/Localities The state government supports roadway maintenance using calculations that may costs the City when it adds road-side parking and bicycle lanes thereby removing that pavement from moving auto traffic use. Can State highway/roadway maintenance calculations be modified to include roadway that is not moving automobile traffic?
51. Pay Parity for Public Defenders from the State Budget
Prosecutors' offices are in part paid by the State Compensation, like other constitutional officers (Sheriffs, Clerk of Courts, Treasurers, etc).
Can public defender salaries be increased, using State funds, so that they are at parity with prosecutors?
52. Right to Counsel for Evictions. Can Richmond join a pilot program in Charlottesville that supports legal counsel for person facing eviction? Does this program need General Assembly Action. Some reports are that Charlottesville uses federal pandemic relief funds for this.