



Loudoun County, Virginia

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Office of the Board of Supervisors

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March 8, 2014

Governor Terry McAuliffe
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Governor McAuliffe:

As Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, I am writing this letter on behalf of my fellow Board members to voice our concern over the lack of an adopted State budget by today's scheduled adjournment date by the General Assembly. This lessens your review time and recommended adjustments and subsequent reconsideration by the General Assembly and final approval. We want to remind you of several rapidly approaching deadlines that affect Loudoun County, as with most localities:

- every local government, must approve a budget and fix its tax rate by July 1 (*VA. Code §§ 15.2-2500 and 15.2-2503*); and,
- every locality is required by law to adopt its annual school budget by May 1, or at least 30 days after receiving an estimate of State aid whichever is later (*VA. Code § 22.1-93*); and,
- all local school divisions must notify its teachers of any reductions in force due to a decrease in the school budget within two weeks of approval of the school budget, but no later than June 1 (*VA. Code § 22.1-304*).

Without timely action on the state budget by both the state legislative and executive branches, local government budget decision-making is nearly impossible to finalize, and the threat of a July 1 shutdown of nonessential state operations a real possibility. Furthermore, the practice of passing additional state-level responsibilities and commitments to localities continues to increase to the point where many localities are forced to choose between annual real estate tax increases or reducing services required to serve its citizens.

We respectfully request that you not allow any single issue, including consideration of Medicaid expansion, to prevent you from working with the General Assembly to enact a state budget. Specifically, if the Medicaid issue cannot be resolved at the conclusion of this session as scheduled, then the issue should be dropped and the entire state budget should move forward and be adopted. Therefore, we request that you separate this particular issue from the entire state budget and deal with it separately at another time.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Scott K. York
Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors