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Update: November 2026

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

2026 Election Season – It's Finally Over!

Thank you to all who voted. Three times we have been to the polls this year and it feels good to put the elections behind us.

For the midterm elections, the turnout in both Waller Mill and Queens Lake precincts during early voting exceeded 40% of the total eligible voters. County wide, the percentage was 34.0

That's a huge increase over previous years. People are clearly taking advantage of the increased ways to vote, such as early voting in our Registrar's office.

For those yet to vote, I hope to see you out at the polling stations on Tuesday.

York County's 1% Sales Tax Referendum

The 1% Sales Tax referendum that is on the 2026 ballot will play a significant role in how we fund school construction for the future. The average age of our school buildings is over 50 years. We have been successful in maintaining our schools, but over time each remodeling effort never gets us back to where we need to be to ensure our children are getting the best education. We are quickly reaching a point were remodeling an obsolete old school just isn't worth the tax dollars. Also, due to the high cost of materials and manpower coupled with obsolete equipment, it is getting more difficult to keep up with the demands for school improvements.

Real estate and personal property taxes are our primary revenue sources for the County. The County's General Fund for the current FY27 budget is $215

million. Of that, $74 million or approximately 37% goes to fund our school system. Over the next 6 fiscal years (2027-2032), the County's total capital investment is expected to be $283 million. Of that amount, 41% or $116 million will go towards funding school capital projects. The County Staff estimate that we will need to obtain approximately $100 million in loans over the next six years. This is a significant amount of money to pay back.

This is where the 1% Sales Tax can really help us out.

Approval of 1% Sales Tax is estimated to generate $12 million per year. This is equivalent to 9¢ on the real estate tax rate. The really nice thing about the sales tax is that, according to the State and independently verified by the County Staff, roughly 40% of the tax will come from visitors to the County.

I have made the point that most communities rely on manufacturing and industry contributions to pay for a significant portion of their yearly budget. For York County, that industry is tourism. It is our economic engine and needs to contribute to our budget in the same manner that manufacturing does in other Counties.

The Supervisors have gone to great lengths over the years to help our schools remain the best in all of Hampton Roads and currently number 2 in the State.

The amount of construction over the coming decades will most likely demand an ever-increasing contribution to the schools.

And finally, the Supervisors will not support a reduction in our Public Safety, and our School Division. I have said it for years, and I will repeat it here. District 1 has the dubious distinction of hosting the largest number of portable trailers as classrooms. Of the 18 trailers in use across York County, 12-14 reside in this district. We are overdue in fixing that problem and returning the state of our buildings to the level of quality our children deserve.

Update on the Greater Williamsburg Sports and Event Center

The Greater Williamsburg Sports & Events Center is off to a strong start, and the early results are beginning to demonstrate the value of the facility as a sports tourism asset.

In the 4th quarter of 2026, the event center hosted Phenom Hoops basketball tournament as an early soft opening for basketball with more than 600 total attendees. In December the progress continues with two significant basketball events:

MADE Hoops Winter Showcase Series – approximately 800 projected room nights

The Ladies Ball National Youth Championship – approximately 1,500 projected room nights

Together, those two December events represent approximately 2,300 projected room nights before we even enter Q1. This creates a strong ramp-up from the smaller October Phenom event into larger basketball weekends and then into a much heavier 2027 calendar.

In the first Quarter of 2027, the activities significantly ramp up with eleven (11) tournaments, a projected hotel room occupancy of 10,265 room-nights.

The Board of Supervisors and the GWSEC Board remain focused on the number of activities and available hours being provided to the local community. The local community needs to benefit from the sports center, and it should also deliver an economic impact boost through outside groups staying overnight to compete in tournaments.

With the operating hours currently being limited throughout the daytime on weekdays, due to staffing issues there might be an imbalance out of the gate that we need to address.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Update on Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL)

We have a completed contract. Each municipality voted unanimously on the revised terms.

We have a 5-year contract that is renewable.
York County pays an equal share to WRL as the current cost per district to fund Yorktown and Tabb libraries.
We are not limited to a smaller percentage of books that may be signed out.
And we are not obliged to provide Capital for library expansions in JCC or City of Williamsburg.

I call that success, and a fair and balanced contract.

Waller Mill Heights Update

Harrison & Lear have made significant progress in the past 4-6 weeks.

- **Stormwater pipe repairs and replacements are complete. CCTV inspections have been completed in all, but three underground pipes. An independent engineering firm will review the footage over the next week and certify the results.**
- **VDOT has completed an inspection of all roads that are due to be paved. A small amount of curb and gutter work remains. Following this, asphalting of roads in the subdivision is expected to begin.**
- **BMP 1 (Stormwater drainage pond) reconstruction is underway. The rebuild of this BMP continues to progress appropriately, with some weather-related delays.**

Springfield Road and Tranquility Subdivision Update

Henderson Construction Inc. have contracts in place for final asphalting of the roads within Tranquility subdivision. This work will be completed in November.

Sewer line installation is in progress along Springfield Rd and expected completion is Nov 30th.

Henderson Construction will then repave Springfield Rd (to Penniman Rd) hopefully in early December, but at this time of year it can be dependent on temperatures.

New Businesses

This month, the Board will decide on a new Sheetz fuel station on Bypass Road, replacing the condemned Williamsburg Suites (next to Cracker Barrel).

Twent-eight new businesses opened in October.

District 1 welcomes three of them.

Here is a quick list of those new to District 1.

Commercial businesses:

- **Wine and Design LLC opened at 410 Lightfoot Rd. Suite E**

Home Based Services:

- **Vigilans Solutions LLC opened at 103 Ketch Court offering consulting services**
- **S.C. Scott Photography LLC opened at 113 Overstreet Court.**

I value your input and am happy to address questions or concerns on these or any other topics for the district Please don't hesitate to contact me. Douglas.Holroyd@YorkCounty.gov or (757) 903-9908



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