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OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

Sales Tax Referendum

During our July 21st Public Hearing, we had a lively discussion on the proposed sales tax referendum proposed by the General Assembly.

We'll start by making sure everyone understands what Resolution R26-118 "Referendum on Additional Local Option Sales Use Tax for School Capital Projects" is.

It was a proposal to introduce a public referendum on this year's election ballot to allow York County residents to vote yes or no on imposing a local general retail sales tax not to exceed 1%. This would be in addition to the existing sales taxes. This sales tax use would be limited to school capital projects (major maintenance/renovation, new construction, etc.).

After quite a bit of debate and discussion, the resolution was approved. That does not mean a new sales tax will be imposed, it only approves the inclusion of a referendum for residents to vote on. Depending upon the outcome of that vote, a new sales tax of up to 1% could be imposed at a later date.

I felt strongly that our citizens should have the right to vote on this topic in November, but I stated quite clearly that I view this as an unfunded mandate from the State. I've discussed this issue with Dr. Carroll, York County School Div. Superintendent. We have applied for several years in a row for grant funding from the State for school expansion and modernization projects. The School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) grants have been denied each and every time YCSD has applied.

In Dr. Carroll's recollection we have only received a grant once, when Seaford Elementary was in need of refurbishment. We continue to receive Federal funding, as we did for Bethel Manor, but no State assistance.

Capital spending for schools has continued to decline year over year despite the cost of construction rising. The referendum if passed, relieves the State of SCAP funding grants, and effectively transfers the bill to the residents in each community. Now, let's not be naïve, the funding whether from State or local community, is still out of the taxpayer's pocket, but I view this as just another example of moving the costs of government from State to Local.

I am also concerned with the potential unintended consequences, adding a new sales tax could bring. I've spoken with local residents who are already making some purchasing decisions outside of York County. An additional sales tax could exacerbate that problem. Driving retail purchases out of the County isn't healthy and is detrimental to the business community we are working hard to grow within the County.

Live Performance Venue Announcement



Another topic I've received a number of questions about is the announcement made earlier this month by the Historic Triangle Recreational Facilities Authority. HTRFA received a presentation proposing a live performance venue, as reported by local news outlets such as the [Williamsburg Independent](#).

At our July 21st Board of Supervisor's meeting, during matters before the Board, I instructed County Administrator, Mark Bellamy, to refrain from adding this topic to our upcoming agendas until such time as the economics for this proposal are clearly understood.

At this time, York County would receive \$256K in annual tax revenue, while the facility is expected to cost in excess of \$80M. This math simply doesn't work for me, nor should it be accepted by York County residents.

I believe that the money we have invested in the Greater Williamsburg Sport and Events Center will have a positive impact on Tourism tax revenue. The event center has already booked all but seven weekends for the next fiscal year and has already generated 29,000 room night reservations over the same period.

We need to be prudent in committing our tourism tax dollars and ensure that the Sport and Events Center proves its success before we consider venturing into another large public entertainment venue.

2026 General Assembly Session Analysis

Each year, the Virginia General Assembly concludes its annual legislative session with a dizzying number of actions, bill filings and new laws. During the session, the County Attorney's office and County staff identify a handful of bills to keep the Board and public informed about.

However, for 2026, we took a different approach. The County Attorney's office, in collaboration with a small team of dedicated County staff members, performed an in-depth analysis of the 2026 General Assembly. They tracked and analyzed more than 100 bills that have the potential to impact County operations, finances, authority and land use, and compiled that analysis into the

[2026 General Assembly Session Analysis.](#)

This document provides a wealth of information and insight into this year's session. It provides:

- Local, state and federal representation information
- Summary information
- Detailed analysis on bills covering:
 - ❖ Local Authority
 - ❖ Dillon Rule
 - ❖ Expenditures
 - ❖ Revenues

You'll find who has sponsored each bill. Which bill passed, failed, continued until the 2027 session and signed into law. While not a light read, it is well worth your time to familiarize yourself with the array of County impacting legislation from this year's session. We have begun to review local zoning ordinances to understand the impact several of the proposed land use bills would have, should they be approved in future years.

This month, we are meeting with each of our State of Virginia elected members to review legislative priorities, and issues we would like to see our representatives take forward to the General Assembly.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Waller Mill Heights Update

Harrison & Lear submitted documentation to York County on August 3rd, outlining construction repair plans for the environmental deviations that led to the Stop Work Order in October 2025.

The County will respond to these engineered plans within 14 days.

Separately, I have met with several of the residents within the subdivision to lay out a plan for addressing the deficiencies and providing an overlay of actions the County may take, should the Developer be unable to progress in a timely manner.

Club Wyndham Timeshare: Patriots Place

Club Wyndham permanently closed and ceased operations at over a dozen resort locations at the end of 2025. Unfortunately, this included Club Wyndham Patriots Place located on Bypass Rd near the entrance to Burgesses Quarters Community. Approximately 100 units (primarily consisting of duplex units) became available through bankruptcy foreclosure. The successful bidder is a company named TYP Transitions, LLC for a purchase price of \$16,300,000.

They have reached out to me since the sale and will now have to bring a rezoning proposal before the Planning Commission followed by the Board of Supervisors.

I have asked that the developer turn these units into condominiums for sale to residents. I believe that ownership in York County is preferred to those paying rent. Owners have a vested interest in the success of the County. We have further discussions planned with the Developer for next week.

Marquis Crossing

A project will come forward to the Board of Supervisors in our August public meeting to consider a rezoning for the 33-acre parcel on the west side of Humelsine Parkway (across from the Marquis shopping center entrance). The project currently proposes 123 townhouses, a Sheetz gas station and convenience store, along with a fast-food restaurant chain.

This is the third time this project has come forward to the Board. There have been many improvements with each successive submission. I am still concerned that the project is not Fiscally positive for the County. We continue to have active discussions on how to close this gap.

Update on Williamsburg Regional Library

Williamsburg City Manager, along with JCC and York County Administrators, met in July to discuss plans for approving a new Regional Library contract. They have recommended that the contract be brought before each Board.

New Businesses

A total of 22 new businesses opened in July. Seven of these businesses in District 1. Six have closed in York County during the same period.

Here is a quick list:

Commercial businesses:

- Lany's Filipino Store LLC at 6610 Mooretown Rd offering retail merchandise and groceries.
- NG Williamsburg LLC, the new Yogi Bears Jellystone Park and Resort on Newman Rd, added a Food Truck License.

Home Based Services:

- Lagom Radiology PLLC opened at 700 Schooner Blvd.
- Mary Anne High opened a home-based notary business at 300 Queensbury Lane.
- Jerry Dwayne Adams opened a repair and maintenance services business at 103 Nelson Dr.
- Opulent Signings LLC opened a Notary service at 121 Drew Road.

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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