Norfolk City Council

Mayor
Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.

Ward 1
Vice Mayor Martin A. Thomas Jr.

Ward 2
Courtney R. Doyle

Ward 3
Mamie B. Johnson

Ward 4
Paul R. Riddick

Ward 5
Thomas R. Smigiel Jr.

Superward 6
Andria P. McClellan

Superward 7
Angelia Williams Graves

City Manager
Larry “Chip” Filer, Ph.D.

City Attorney
Bernard A. Pishko

City Clerk
Richard Allan Bull

Legislative Contact
Thelma Drake
thelma.drake@norfolk.gov
757-418-2486
2021 General Assembly Legislative Focus

Strengthening Our Economy

Norfolk continues to support additional educational opportunities for both students and adults to further their education and skill sets and to address the workforce needs of our region. Norfolk is committed to reviewing the changing economic landscape brought on by the pandemic, to broaden and diversify local revenue streams to help retain existing businesses and encourage new business opportunities. Norfolk supports additional grant funding to attract and retain successful businesses to encourage economic growth.

- Support any new federal CARES funding made available to local governments to be used for replacement funding to address lost revenues caused by the impact of COVID-19.
- Support additional funding for localities, work with local businesses to develop strategies and implement public health standards to address COVID requirements.
- Support increased state and federal investment in broadband to allow Virginians in all communities to safely telecommute, participate in virtual school classes and meetings and access telehealth services.
- Support an additional $1 million contribution to the Port Host Cities Redevelopment and Industrial Fund.
- Support amending the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT) to allow for taxation of streaming and post-paid calling services.
- Support increasing the CSUT from 5% to the prevailing state tax rate of 5.3%.
- Support the Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP), $2M in FY22.
- Support State assistance developing new incentives to attract companies that support the emerging offshore wind industry.
- Support funding programs and policies that assist local governments with preparing shovel-ready sites for future development.

Coastal and Environmental Resilience

Norfolk is leading the way and is closely aligned with the Commonwealth’s Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework which was released in October 2020. This framework lays the groundwork to adapt to rising seas, increased nuisance flooding, and more frequent and intense storms that result from climate change. The City has adopted the most resilient zoning code in the country to prepare for these challenges. Currently, the city is engaged in a 2-year preconstruction engineering and design effort with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the first segment of the Coastal Storm Risk
2021 General Assembly Legislative Focus (continued)

Management plan which will protect downtown Norfolk and the St. Paul’s area. Norfolk, along with the city of Virginia Beach, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the U.S. Navy completed a Joint Land Use Study regarding how frequent flooding impacts military operations and access to military facilities.

- Support the current General Assembly funding and continuing to fund the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

- Support continued investment in the Storm Water Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) for improvements and installation of effective storm water management controls.

- Support local governments in efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency by providing incentives and funding sources.

- Support justifiable wastewater mandates implemented at the fairest cost to taxpayers.

STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Norfolk seeks to ensure that all residents share in the city’s success. In the St. Paul’s area, the city is working diligently to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by transforming the area into a resilient, mixed-income, mixed-use community and implementing a transformational human services program called People First. This program is family-focused, and seeks to improve housing stability, quality educational opportunities, youth and adult development programs, jobs with higher wages, job training and health and wellness programs. The city
2021 General Assembly Legislative Priorities

continues to invest $3M annually. This project will become a model for the nation. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has recognized Norfolk’s transformative efforts with a $30M Choice Neighborhoods grant for phase 1 of the St. Paul’s transformation and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded Norfolk a $14.4M BUILD Grant to create resilient, connected and safe streets. By 2025 all new city infrastructure will reconnect this community to the downtown area.

- Support providing additional assistance to local governments to provide citizens better access to affordable housing.
- Support providing state assistance to localities with aging infrastructure in their neighborhoods.
- Support local control of all land use decisions including the authority to promote affordable and mixed-income housing as well as the required infrastructure to facilitate in-fill development, redevelopment and mixing of uses.

Safe communities are vital to the success of all Norfolk’s neighborhoods. The Norfolk Police Department has been recognized for its leadership, community engagement, crime suppression activities and community-based programs that have developed authentic relationships between the police and the communities they serve.

- Support increased funding for officers through the State Aid to Localities With Police Departments “599” program.
- Support increased funding for mental health

and healthcare issues in regional jails.
- Support reimbursement for the full cost of housing state-responsible inmates in both local and regional jails.
- Support public policy initiatives that provide proper training for public safety officials, ensures equitable and just treatment, and provides support for public safety officers.

Education

Norfolk Public Schools is the Commonwealth’s largest urban school division statewide, educating approximately 30,000 students. Norfolk continually strives to provide the very best academic and technical training in enthusiastic, positive learning environments with the overarching goal to successfully produce
college-prepared, work-ready or service-bound graduates. The division offers diverse educational opportunities to provide students with advanced workforce training to prepare them to enter our business community. Norfolk’s goal is to meet the diverse needs of our student body, ensure our graduates’ success in the workforce and meet the needs of adult learners. Norfolk Public Schools works collaboratively with area higher education institutions, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Tidewater Community College and Virginia Wesleyan University. A challenge for the city is that most of our school buildings are over 40 years old.

- Support a year-long hold harmless for Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding through the 2020-2021 school year to address the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
- Support the Commonwealth developing a plan for adequate funding for K-12 school construction and renovation or allowing local governments the tools to address this need themselves.
- Support pilot programs allowing local school districts and their local governments to individually or regionally offer special education day programs using Children’s Services Act (CSA) funds to serve more community children and to address the reality of costs growing at greater than the rate of inflation and the rising number of placements.
- Support actions to increase the At-Risk Add-On funds – a quality education is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty.

- Support increased state and federal investment for technology needs and internet access for virtual learning.

Transit and Transportation

Norfolk is the most multimodal city in the Commonwealth. Our transportation options include enhanced bicycle lanes, micromobility options, bus, ferry, light rail, passenger rail (Amtrak), and an international airport with extensive national connections. Our transportation options support safety and connectedness for the people of Norfolk and the region. Norfolk has engaged in extensive public outreach for a multimodal transportation master plan. Norfolk’s goal is to increase transit ridership in our region, to evaluate and recommend how and where bus services should be provided, reduce wait times, and to increase ridership within Norfolk city limits. City leadership has adopted a Vision Zero initiative to greatly reduce the number of traffic-related deaths.

- Support implementation of the third Amtrak passenger service to Norfolk by December 11, 2022, and funding for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) between Hampton Roads and Richmond to enhance rail service and improve speed and reliability.
- Support increased state funding for the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) for the Hampton Roads Express Lanes (HRELN) network.
- Support the General Assembly finding a sustainable solution to mitigate tolls and to bring the Elizabeth River Tunnels system...
under public control as part of the region’s managed lane network.

- Support a sustainable source of funding for transportation to meet the growing transportation needs of the Commonwealth. We are grateful for the resources and new initiatives in SB890 and HB1414 from the 2020 General Assembly Session, but we recognize that Smart Scale funding for local and regional priorities remains insufficient.

- Support the new regional transit funding as provided in the 2020 General Assembly session as well as additional state funding for transit, including funding for state of good repair, equipment, facilities, and service expansion.

- Support new funding to provide localities with a stable, state/federal reliable match funding to increase localities’ success rate in applying for new federal/state program funds for our much-needed projects.

Charter Bill

- The amendment (Charter Section 133) provides authority for the City Clerk to administer oaths to the members of City boards and commissions, unless State Code requires the oath be administered by a judge or the Circuit Court Clerk or Deputy.

- The amendment (Charter Section 64) allows the Deputy Chief of Police, if they/them are promoted into the position from a lower rank within the Police Department, to return to the former position should the City Manager determine to suspend or dismiss them.

- The amendment (Charter Section 44) removes the reference to poll tax when determining whether someone is a “qualified voter” relating to elections, initiative and referendum or recall.

- The amendment (Charter Section 61) removes the section concerning Home Guards which is an outdated provision authorizing Council to create special police with full powers of arrest just like a regular police officer.

City of Norfolk Endorsements

1. Support the regional legislative packages of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance, the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission and the legislative packages of Virginia Municipal League and Virginia First Cities.

2. Support the creation of the Community Military Partnership Fund to support local infrastructure projects that support our military installations.

3. Support legalization and taxation of marijuana at the State level and the revenues therefrom be used to support K-12 school rehabilitation and construction.


5. Support authorization for localities and public animal shelters to participate in the humane and effective practice of Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR).

6. Support requiring all buildings that have been vacant for 12 months or more to register and pay the annual fee.
Norfolk Facts at a Glance:

1. Hampton Roads has a population of 1.7 million and is the seventh largest metro area in the Southeast United States and the second largest between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.

2. Two-thirds of the U.S. population is within a day’s drive, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Indianapolis, and Jacksonville, Fla.

3. Between 7,000 and 8,000 highly-skilled workers, exiting military in Hampton Roads annually; over 42,000 military spouses on average.

4. The average regional labor force was estimated to be 839,707 for September 2019 to August 2020.

5. Nearly 70,000 (69,856) enrolled at all eleven higher education institutions in the metropolitan area (four-year public, four-year private, and two-year public). Over half of these students attend a Norfolk institution of higher learning.

(SCHEV Research Report E05: Annualized Student FTE by Student Level Group, 2019-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population - 2019</th>
<th>245,054</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Jobs in Norfolk - 2020</td>
<td>144,765</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of persons who commute to Norfolk to work (All Jobs) - 2017</td>
<td>95,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate 12-Month Rolling Average Sep. 2019 – Aug. 2020</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate Aug. 2020</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
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<td>Active-Duty Military Employment in Hampton Roads – 2019</td>
<td>83,360</td>
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<td>Total direct economic impact of the Navy/USMC in Hampton Roads FY18</td>
<td>$16.1 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Navy/USMC payroll (military and civilian) in Hampton Roads FY18</td>
<td>$11.7 Billion</td>
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<td>Median household income - 2019</td>
<td>$53,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults 25 and Over in Norfolk with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher - 2019</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
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<td>Median Age - 2019</td>
<td>31.1</td>
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<td>Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units - 2019</td>
<td>$218,000</td>
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