



## Northern Virginia Regional Commission

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Northern Virginia Regional Commission's 2008 Legislative Program Highlights Local Priorities**

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission's 2008 Legislative Program, presented to members of the General Assembly this week, identifies five key positions related to state policies which are priorities of NVRC member jurisdictions. In addition, the Legislative Program requests an increase in state funding for the planning district commission to support the activities required by state mandate and to meet state objectives best accomplished in collaboration with NVRC's local government members.

The legislative program includes these position statements related to state policies of interest to NVRC's member governments, individually and collectively, and the two million residents of Northern Virginia:

- energy conservation and efficiencies
- solid waste management and electronic recycling
- open space preservation and land conservation
- increasing voting day hours of operation
- campaign finance disclosure requirements for small towns

For a detailed description of the 2008 Northern Virginia Regional Commission Legislative Program, check <http://www.novaregion.org/legis2008/index.htm>

"The critical needs of local governments and the region's residents are well represented in NVRC's 2008 legislative program," said Gerry Connolly, NVRC Chairman and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman. "NVRC and its 14 member local governments need this legislation to provide more effective programs and services to residents across the region."

NVRC's legislative program also requests an increase in state General Funds to a rate of 35 cents per capita for the Region 8 planning district commission, to support state-mandated activities and programs to meet state objectives that are best accomplished working cooperatively with local governments.

“NVRC has played an instrumental role in efforts to improve the quality of life of Northern Virginians and to realize the benefits of cooperative problem solving, achieving economies of scale, and facilitating coordinated action that increases efficiency,” said Connolly. “Both the Commonwealth and its local jurisdiction members recognize the unique and vital role of NVRC in professional regional planning, and in coordinating responses to the ever-increasing imperatives for multi-jurisdictional and inter-governmental approaches.”

While NVRC’s member government contributions have increased steadily over time, state support continues to decline. In the case of Northern Virginia, the state funding contribution is less in actual dollars than it was in 1988, and an added reduction is included in the Governor’s proposed cuts released in early October.

Other legislative positions identified for collective support by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the region’s 14 cities, towns and counties are:

- improved mental health services
- enhanced children’s mental health services and support for the Community Services Board
- funding for the response to federal Base Relocation and Closure Act (BRAC) decisions especially related to planning and transportation issues.
- a change in the Freedom of Information Act to allow electronic meetings during emergencies
- stronger pedestrian safety laws
- transportation efficiencies and funding
- allow local laws regarding firearms in public facilities

The complete NVRC 2008 Legislative Program is posted on <http://www.novaregion.org> . For more information, contact NVRC’s lobbyist Sue Rowland at [sue@suerowlandconsulting.org](mailto:sue@suerowlandconsulting.org) or 703.626.7392.

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