



Town of Leesburg

2018 Legislative Positions Statement

GENERAL POSITIONS

(Issues are not arranged in priority order)

A. Oppose any reduction of local taxing authority

The Town Council opposes any reduction or narrowing of the taxing authority of local governments, including but not limited to business license tax, machinery & tools tax and meals tax. Further, the General Assembly should take no action to restrict the use of current local revenue sources.

B. Oppose any reduction of local land use authority

The Town Council opposes legislation that weakens local authority to plan and regulate land use, zoning and property maintenance. This authority should remain with local governing bodies.

The Town Council generally supports the granting of additional land use, zoning and property maintenance authority to localities, especially in areas experiencing high rates of sustained growth, and as a means to address the fiscal burdens experienced by localities in providing needed public services to local residents.

The Town Council supports existing local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers to assist localities in financing the capital facilities and infrastructure needed to serve new development and opposes legislation to eliminate or restrict that authority.

C. Oppose any unfunded mandates

The Town Council opposes any new state mandates that are not fully funded by the Commonwealth, and opposes the shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to localities for existing programs.

D. Support revenue sharing with state

The Town Council supports any state revenue sharing formula to assist local governments with public infrastructure needs, so long as the formula includes recognition of the needs in high growth localities.

POSITIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

(Issues are not arranged in priority order)

E. Tree Save Efforts

The Town Council supports efforts that would strengthen localities' ability to require private new construction projects to save existing trees.

F. GIS Support

The Town Council opposes any legislation that would mandate that only licensed surveyors may perform GIS work for localities.

37 **G. Short-Term Rental (Airbnb, etc.) Regulations**

38 The Town Council supports any state policy that ensure Town land use and taxing authority over
39 short-term residential rentals.

40 **H. Transportation Funding**

- 41 i The Town Council supports state policy changes to reduce state oversight of locally
42 administered transportation projects. Such oversight is duplicative, cumbersome, and
43 inefficient, and results in unnecessary delays and costs. Periodic state audits of locally
44 administered projects would be more efficient and better policy than constant, day to day
45 oversight.
- 46 ii The Town Council supports state policy changes to mandate further refinement of VDOT
47 cost estimates for transportation projects in an effort to improve accuracy and thus reduce
48 time lost due to the accumulation of unnecessary excess funds. In those circumstances when
49 excess funds are unavoidable, allow those funds to be allocated to other projects more
50 efficiently.

51 iii Construction of Grade-Separated Interchanges

52 The Town Council requests dedicated funding for the construction of grade-separated
53 interchanges to replace the current at-grade signalized intersections in the following
54 locations:

- 55 (a) Edwards Ferry Road at the Route 15 Bypass, incorporating the intersection of Fort
56 Evans Road and the Route 15 Bypass, as well as facilities that will allow safe
57 pedestrian passage across the Bypass

58 *Status:* Interchange Justification Report (IJR) underway. This VDOT managed
59 project has \$2 million in NVTA funds allocated for study and design work.

- 60 (b) Battlefield Parkway at Route 7 (East Market Street)

61 *Status:* NVTA and VDOT agreement complete. \$13 million in NVTA funds and 25
62 million in NVTA funds have been secured. County and Town will request \$25
63 million in 2019 NVTA Funds

- 64 (c) Battlefield Parkway at the Route 15 Bypass

65 *Status:* Town has applied for \$50 million in HB-2 funding from VDOT. IJR has not
66 been funded

67 **I. Transient Occupancy Tax**

68 The Commonwealth should not allow online travel companies to avoid paying the full transient
69 occupancy tax and the Town Council supports legislation to clarify this in the state code.

70 **J. Civil Zoning Fines**

71 The Town Council supports legislation that grants localities the authority to collect unpaid and
72 delinquent civil zoning fines in the same manner as real estate taxes and levies are collected.

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75 **K. Local Authority to Prohibit Firearms on Public Property**

76 The Town Council supports legislation that authorizes localities to adopt ordinances that prohibit
77 firearms and ammunition on property owned or leased by the locality.

78 **L. Prohibit Predatory Lending Practices** (*Council Resolution, July 13, 2010*)

79 The Town Council supports legislation that prohibits all predatory, usurious lending practices,
80 including but not limited to provisions that would:

- 81 i. Impose an interest rate cap of eighteen percent (18%) above the prime lending rate,
82 calculated as an effective annual percentage rate including all fees or charges of any kind, for
83 any consumer credit extended in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- 84 ii. Incorporate into the Virginia Code the protections regarding consumer credit to military
85 personnel as reflected in the Military Lending Act, 10 United States Code, Section 987.

86 **M. Utility Rates & Connection Fees**

87 The Town Council supports the existing authority of localities or locally created authorities to
88 impose utility rates and connection fees adequate to support the full cost of water, wastewater
89 and stormwater utility systems, and opposes any legislation that would limit that authority.

90 **N. Higher Education Presence in Leesburg**

91 The Town Council requests funding for a state-supported higher education presence in the Town
92 of Leesburg.

93 **O. Independent Consumer Advocate for Transmission Line Issues**

94 The Town Council supports legislation that creates an independent office of the consumer
95 advocate within State government to actively participate in transmission lines issues before the
96 State Corporation Commission.

97 **P. Enforcement of Recycling Regulations**

98 The Town Council supports legislation that grants localities the authority to enforce compliance
99 with recycling regulations.

100 **Q. Line of Duty Act**

101 The Town Council supports the Virginia Municipal League's position that funding responsibility
102 for the Line of Duty program should be returned to the Commonwealth.

103 **R. Legal Notice Publication**

104 The Town Council supports legislation that would give localities the authority to post legal
105 notices on websites as a substitute for publishing legal notices in newspapers.

106 **S. Restoration of HB 599 Law Enforcement Assistance Funding**

107 The Town Council requests the General Assembly fully restore HB 599 Law Enforcement
108 Assistance Funding to funding levels per the established formulas. The Town has lost
109 approximately \$171,000 each year since 2009 in reduced funding from the state.

110 **T. State Funding for School Resource Officers**

111 The Town Council supports legislation that would provide state funding for school resource
112 officers at all public elementary, middle, and high schools.

113 **U. Virginia Public Procurement Act**

114 The Town Council supports the positions of the Virginia Association of Governmental
115 Purchasing on legislation regarding the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

116 **V. Non-partisan Redistricting that Preserves Jurisdictional Boundaries**

117 The Town Supports redistricting reform, including the use of a non-partisan independent
118 commission to draw state legislative and Congressional lines based on specified and consistent
119 criteria, including insofar as possible preservation of the integrity of existing city, town, county,
120 and precinct lines.

121 **W. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Commonwealth Resilience Fund**

122 The Town Council supports VML in urging the General Assembly to address greenhouse gas
123 emissions targets through a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (RGGI) carbon credit auction,
124 and/or a carbon emissions tax. All proceeds derived from the auction of credits should be used
125 to establish the “Commonwealth Resilience Fund”, a special state dedicated fund to assist
126 localities in addressing flooding, energy efficiency improvements, and economic development.

127 **X. Chesapeake Bay TMDL and State Water Quality Management Planning Regulation**

128 The Town Council supports the Virginia Municipal Wastewater Association’s position opposing
129 revision of existing nutrient allocation of dischargers (local governments, authorities and
130 industrial facilities) for the purpose of transferring allocation to new facilities.

131 **Y. Residential Overcrowding and Blighted Structure Regulations**

132 The Town Council supports additional local authority to investigate and enforce residential
133 overcrowding and blighted structure renovation or removal.

134 **Z. State Corporation Commission Public Hearing Requirements**

135 The Town Council supports a requirement that the State Corporation Commission hold a public
136 hearing on matters relating to the siting of power transmission lines when an affected locality
137 provides a written request for a public hearing.

138 **AA. Rights to Share Customer Account Information**

139 The Town Council opposes any legislation that would restrict the sharing of customer contact
140 information, exclusive of consumption data, between governmental bodies for the purpose of tax
141 collection.

142 **BB. Automobile Emissions Inspections**

143 The Town Council supports the expansion of biennial motor vehicle emissions inspection
144 requirements for localities with significant Northern Virginia commuting populations.