AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019 AT 6:45 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

R-FY-20-40
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020

On a motion by Darrell O. Sheppard, seconded by Christopher A. Tuck and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby supports legislation that may be introduced in the 2020 General Assembly session that ends the transfer of state funding shortfalls to localities and the continued shift of services traditionally provided by the state to local government.

The Board further supports legislation that strengthens localities' ability to fund and deliver services to our citizens including:

BROADBAND:

- ***Broadband.*** Urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

EDUCATION:

- ***Recognizing the State's Role in Funding Quality Education*** by fully funding public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and basing teacher pay raises on actual positions, not just SOQ requirements.

- ***Enhancing School Safety and Security*** by allocating state funds to find ways to make school facilities more secure, provide for student safety and the ongoing need to prevent future school attacks.

ERA:

- ***Support the General Assembly's ratification of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment in the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session.*** Urge the General Assembly to consider-adopting House Joint Resolution #579 proposing to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and to request that Congress vote to extend or remove the time deadline for States to ratify the Amendment.

FUNDING:

- ***End Unfunded Mandates and State Funding Reductions on Local Government-*** Reduce state mandates and fund the state share in the those areas where the state has served as a funding partner with local government: public education, public safety and Constitutional Officers.

- ***Protecting Local Governments' Taxing Authority for Current Revenue Sources***. Each General Assembly session, bills are introduced to eliminate, restrict, or weaken local governments' ability to levy taxes on its existing revenue sources. Montgomery County asks that our current revenue sources be protected.

- ***Strengthening the County's Revenue Base by Enacting Equal Taxing Authority*** by eliminating the distinction in the taxing authority of Virginia's cities, counties and towns.

- ***Power to Levy Tax upon the Sale or Use of Cigarettes.*** Montgomery County requests legislation adding Montgomery County to the list of counties who can levy a tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes. The revenues generated from the tax imposed shall be used solely for school maintenance and construction.

- ***Strengthening the Diversity of Local Revenues by Sharing Income Taxes or Other Revenue Sources in Support of Local Services*** by distributing a percentage of individual income tax revenues, providing the authority to levy a local income tax, or allowing other sources to generate revenue locally for locally delivered services.

- ***Amend Section 58.1-3203 of the Code of Virginia Taxation of Certain Leasehold Interests*** to allow localities to assess for taxation non-exempt leasehold interests in real property that is exempt at one hundred (100) percent.

LAND USE:

- ***Preserve land use authority at the local level, and support opportunities for localities*** to utilize the most effective land use tools for them, depending on their needs.

RECREATION:

- ***Support funding for the planning, development and implementation of a multi-jurisdictional trail system*** interconnecting existing trails to create a long distance network through Southwest Virginia including Montgomery County's first phase - the Valley to Valley Trail - to connect the New River and Roanoke Valleys.

TRANSPORTATION:

- ***Interstate 81 Corridor Improvements*** support the Commonwealth's Transportation Board Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement plan for Interstate 81 corridor improvements.

- ***Support Passenger Rail Expansion to the New River Valley*** by extending the Amtrak Passenger Rail service from the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

AYE	NAY
Mary W. Biggs	None
Sara R. Bohn	
April N. DeMotts	
Steve R. Fijalkowski	
Darrell O. Sheppard	
Christopher A. Tuck	
M. Todd King	

ATTEST: F. Craig Meadows

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator