



City Council

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The City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

As in the last two years, Charlottesville's most important legislative priority is to seek permission for Charlottesville to ask the electorate for permission to levy an extra one cent on the sales tax to fund school construction.

Other important legislative changes that we support include:

- Amend Virginia Code §55.1-1308.2 to make it easier for residents of mobile home parks that have been offered for sale to a developer to make an intelligent counteroffer. The owner of a mobile home park that is being offered for sale should be required to furnish to the residents the terms of the offer from the developer. The timeline for submitting a counteroffer should be lengthened, and supporting purchase documentation should be required to be shared with tenants as it becomes available. We likewise recommend increasing compensation for tenants at purchase and linking that rate to inflation.
- We recommend expanding powers granted in §15.2-961.3, to allow a locality to require more than a twenty percent tree canopy in flood plains and riparian areas.
- We recommend funding the Commonwealth Corridor train from Roanoke to Hampton Roads via Charlottesville and Richmond.
- We support amending §58.1-3221.1 to add Charlottesville to the list of localities permitted to levy a tax on improvements to real property at a different rate than the tax imposed upon the land on which the improvement is located, provided that the tax rate is not zero and does not exceed the tax rate imposed on the land. Currently, only the cities of Fairfax, Poquoson, Richmond, and Roanoke are allowed to tax an improvement to real property independently from the land on which it is situated.

We also favor amendments to the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act that will increase the rights of tenants. In particular:

- Amend the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to allow tenants to raise unsafe or unsanitary conditions as an affirmative defense to non-payment of rent.
- Allow indigent tenants to appeal without having to post an appeal bond. This would grant indigent tenants the same rights that exist for indigent people in other types of civil cases.

- Amend §55.1-1415 to turn the 5-day “Pay or quit” notice into a 14-day notice.
- Give tenants more procedural protections against eviction.
- Permit localities to adopt a rent control or rent stabilization program.

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