

COUNTY of FREDERICK

Finance Department  
**Cheryl B. Shiffler**  
Director

540/665-5610

Fax: 540/667-0370

E-mail: cshiffle@co.frederick.va.us

**TO:** Finance Committee

**FROM:** Cheryl B. Shiffler, Finance Director *CBShiffler*

**DATE:** March 15, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Finance Committee Agenda

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The Finance Committee will meet in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room at 107 North Kent Street on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

1. The Frederick County Public School Board Chairman requests discussion on the re-appropriation of funds remaining at year end in the School Operating Fund to the School Capital Project Fund. See attached memo, p. 1.
2. The Sheriff requests a General Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,445.35. This amount represents three insurance reimbursements for automobile claims. No local funds needed. See attached memos, p. 2 – 4.
3. The Human Resources Director requests a General Fund budget transfer in the amount of \$9,500 and a General Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$78,000. These amounts represent salary and fringes for the hire of a Radio Technician and associated equipment for the remainder of FY 2007. Also requested is an FY 2008 General Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$60,164.15. This amount represents salary and fringes for the upcoming fiscal year. These requests have been approved by the Human Resources Committee. Additional local funds are needed. See attached information, p. 5 – 9.

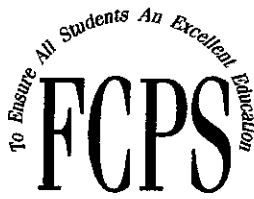
4. The Registrar requests a General Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$18,000. This amount is needed to cover the costs for the June 2007 Primary Election. Additional local funds needed. See attached memo, p. 10.
5. The Commissioner of the Revenue requests a General Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1624.19. This amount represents additional State funds expected for qualified purchases of technical and office equipment. No local funds needed. See attached memo, p. 11 – 12.
6. The Commissioner of the Revenue will be available for continued discussion on conservation easements. See attached information, p. 13 – 20.

**\*\* FOR INFORMATION ONLY \*\***

1. The Literacy Volunteers – Winchester Area has provided additional information. See p. 21 – 22.
2. The Finance Director provides a fund balance report. See attached report, p. 23.

**School Board**

John Lamanna, Chairman  
Stuart Wolk, Vice-Chairman  
Donald Butler  
Melvin "Jim" Harmon  
Richard Howett  
Benjamin Waterman  
David Zerull



*Frederick County Public Schools*

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[www.frederick.k12.va.us](http://www.frederick.k12.va.us)

# Memorandum

FEB 2007

**DATE:** February 12, 2007

**TO:** Richard C. Shickle, Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Supervisors, Frederick County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John Lamanna, Chairman, School Board *JL*  
Members, Frederick County School Board

**RE:** **Proposed Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Unencumbered  
FY07 School Operating Funds**

The School Board of Frederick County, Virginia respectfully requests that the Frederick County Board of Supervisors agree to appropriate all unencumbered, fiscal year-end funds remaining in the School Operating Fund budget to the School Capital Project Fund in the following fiscal year. Said funds will be used for capital outlays and/or major repair of school buildings and grounds which are not included in the School Operating Fund.

pc: Patty Taylor, Superintendent  
John R. Riley, County Administrator ✓

*12/11*

# FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



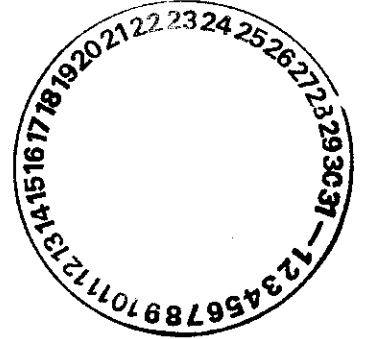
ROBERT T. WILLIAMSON  
Sheriff

MAJOR R.C. ECKMAN  
Chief Deputy

5 NORTH KENT STREET  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601

540/662-6168  
FAX 540/722-4001

TO : Finance Department  
FROM : Sheriff R. T. Williamson *RTW*  
SUBJECT : Insurance Reimbursement  
DATE : February 22, 2007



*1096*

We are requesting the insurance check in the amount of \$3,045.35 for the auto claim dated January 21, 2007 be appropriated into 3102-3004-02.

Thank you.

RTW/asw

# FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ROBERT T. WILLIAMSON  
Sheriff

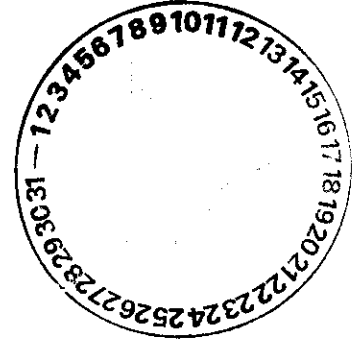
MAJOR R.C. ECKMAN  
Chief Deputy

5 NORTH KENT STREET  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601

540/662-6168  
FAX 540/722-4001

TO : Jennifer L. Place, Finance Department  
FROM : Sheriff R. T. Williamson *RTW*  
SUBJECT : Auto Claim Check; 1-30-07  
DATE : March 2, 2007

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We are requesting the check received in the amount of \$7,575.00 for the auto claim dated 1/30/07 be appropriated into our budget, 3102-3004-02. *Repair and Maintenance Vehicles*

Thank you.

RTW/asw

# FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ROBERT T. WILLIAMSON  
Sheriff

MAJOR R.C. ECKMAN  
Chief Deputy

5 NORTH KENT STREET  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601

540/662-6168  
FAX 540/722-4001

TO : Jennifer L. Place, Finance Department  
FROM : Sheriff R. T. Williamson *RTW*  
SUBJECT : Auto Claim Check; 1/6/07  
DATE : March 2, 2007



We are requesting the insurance check received in the amount of \$9,825.00 for the auto claim dated 2/6/07 be appropriated into our budget, 3102-3004-02. *Repair and Maintenance Vehicles*

Thank you.

RTW/asw



**County of Frederick**

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**Paula A. Nofsinger**  
Director of Human Resources

(540) 665-5668  
FAX: (540) 665-5669  
pnofsing@co.frederick.va.us

To: Cheryl Shiffler  
Finance Director

From: Paula Nofsinger *PN*  
HR Director

Date: March 8, 2007

Subject: HR Committee Recommendation

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The HR Committee met on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. with the following people present: Charles DeHaven, Chairman, Barbara VanOsten, Philip Farley, Verne Collins, Kris Tierney, LeeAnna Pyles, and myself. The following was approved by the committee and was recommended to be forwarded to the Finance Committee for funding consideration.

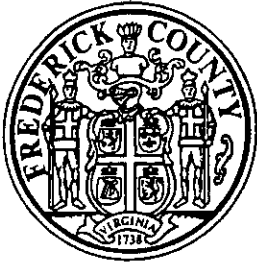
The Director of Public Safety Communications received approval to add the position of Radio Technician. Attached is the request from LeeAnna Pyles, Director, for an additional full-time position classified at a Range 9, starting salary of \$43,932.01. The anticipated hiring date will be no earlier than May 1, 2007.

The Director of Public Safety Communications is requesting approval in fiscal year 2007 for a budget transfer in the amount of \$9,500.00 for salary and fringes and a general fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$78,000.00 for equipment. She is also requesting approval for a general fund supplemental appropriation for the position and fringes in the amount of \$60,164.15 for fiscal year 2008.

No other business was discussed and please contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Received 2/2/07  
Jamy



**COUNTY of FREDERICK, VIRGINIA**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

5 North Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601

LeeAnna Pyles  
Director,  
Public Safety  
Communications

To: Human Resources Committee  
From: LeeAnna Pyles, Director *LeeAnna Pyles*  
Date: January 30, 2007  
Ref: Request to Acquire Public Safety Communications Radio Technician

The Frederick County Department of Public Safety Communications is requesting approval to acquire a Public Safety Communications Radio Technician. This would be a full time position within the Communications Department, but would also assist Fire & Rescue and the Sheriff's Department, both of which are in agreement of hiring for this position.

This position would provide emergency service response on an as needed basis, installation, maintenance, and repair of radio equipment as well as communications console equipment. The department currently uses a radio repair service company out of Frederick, Md. Due to location and other business contracts they are unable to provide 24/7 coverage. When not available we utilize employees of the Sheriff's Office and Fire & Rescue. If this occurs during their off hours, this will incur overtime pay for these Departments. In a few instances the radio system has gone down and a Dispatcher has had to dispatch from a cruiser. For the safety of emergency workers and County citizens, it is imperative that the radio equipment has little or no down time.

The position requirements would be as follows:

- Extensive specialized knowledge of a wide variety of communications equipment
- Valid drivers license
- High school graduation or GED equivalent;
- Post high school education at a technical school, college, or university in two-way radio communications design or servicing, or in electronics or a closely related field with coursework in two-way radio communications may be substituted for one (1) year of the work experience requirement;



- General Class FCC Licensing or the ability to obtain within one (1) year.
- Five (5) years technical experience and or education in Public Safety communications and or two-way radio servicing.

This position would have a pay grade of R9. We have current fiscal year funding available due to unfilled Dispatcher positions. The position and funding in the amount of \$43,932.01 (\$60,164.15 with fringes) would have to be added to the 07-08 budget. Equipment needed for the position is estimated at \$78,000.00. Some equipment could be purchased through state contracts at a lower cost. Partial funding could also be available through our line item, *Repair & Maintenance of Equipment*. A vehicle will be provided by the Fire & Rescue Department.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS**  
**RADIO TECHNICIAN**

**JOB FUNCTION:**

This is a technical position responsible for performing specialized work in the installation, maintenance and repair of public safety communication equipment and service related electronic equipment.

**TYPICAL DUTIES:**

Specific job duties of this position may not be included in the list below, nor do the examples cover all duties that may be preformed;

- Installs, maintains, tests, adjusts and repairs the public safety dispatch system;
- Operates and maintains a wide variety of hand and power tools, and test equipment related to electronics work;
- Operates County vehicle;
- Installs, services, and optimizes a variety of land-mobile, mobile data, microwave and base transmitter communications systems and electronic equipment such as hand-held and mobile radios, pagers, base transmitters mobile data computers, microwave units, communications consoles and associated data networks, system controllers, E9-1-1 call display and routing equipment, and system management terminals;
- Tests operational parameters of equipment to ensure compliance with specifications, FCC rules and compatibility with users' system and the trunked radio system;
- Diagnoses and isolates malfunctions in a wide variety technical of equipment; researches technical service manuals and reviews schematic diagrams; performs optimization and service to the component level; and tests equipment for proper functioning;
- Performs installation of communications systems and consoles (9-1-1 dispatcher centers);
- Maintains and repairs the mobile data and microwave networks;
- Performs scheduling and prioritization of repairs and maintenance, and responds to requests for service;
- Provides accurate and detailed record of services performed on automated database system including time spent on services, parts used, and other relevant information for billing and costing purposes;
- Implements periodic optimization of the mobile data and microwave network system infrastructure;
- Provides emergency service response on an as needed basis.
- Maintains testing and repair equipment, tools, and workspace;
- Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with other County departments, outside organizations, vendors, and co-workers;
- Performs other duties as required;

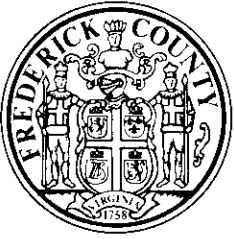
- Supervises contract workers and as-needed employees.

**KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:**

- Read and comprehend schematic diagrams, blueprints and rough sketches;
- Communicate effectively in written and verbal form in the English language;
- Effectively follow written and verbal instructions;
- Exercise independent judgment and initiative within established guidelines;
- Establish and maintain tactful, courteous, and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of a day and including the general public;
- Work in a team-based environment and achieve common goals;
- Bend, stoop, crawl, lift, reach, walk up and down stairs to perform assigned duties;
- Lift, and remove or install parts weighing up to 50 pounds;
- Differentiate colors of wires encountered in the course of work;
- Considerable knowledge of the use, operation, calibration, and care of various electronic tools and diagnostic equipment and software;
- Considerable knowledge of the state and federal rules, regulations, codes and standards governing radio communications operations and installation;
- Ability to diagnose problems, and make repairs at the component level;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships;
- Knowledge of different manufactures and equipment.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/LICENSE:**

- High school graduation or GED equivalent;
- Minimum of five (5) years of technical experience in the public safety communications systems or comparable advanced military communications system experience.
- Post high school education at a technical school, college, or university in two-way radio communications design or servicing, or in electronics or a closely related field with coursework in two-way radio communications may be substituted for one (1) year of the work experience.
- Valid drivers license;
- General Class FCC Licensing or the ability to obtain within one (1) year.



OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION & ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

General Registrar of Voters

E-mail: fcvotes@co.frederick.va.us

Rick Miller  
540/665-5660  
Fax 540/665-8976

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: March 14, 2007

To: Finance Department

From: Rick Miller, Voter Registrar & Frederick County Electoral Board

*RM 3/14/07*

Subject: Supplemental Budget Request for June 2007 Primary Election

The Frederick County Electoral Board and Voter Registrar would like to be placed on the Frederick County Finance Committee agenda for their March 21, 2007 meeting. The reason for this is to inform the Finance Committee of a supplemental budget request of \$ 18,000.00 to cover the costs for the June 2007 Primary Election. At this time, the Frederick County Republican Party has requested a Primary Election only for the 27<sup>th</sup> Virginia State Senate seat. No other State or local offices are currently requested. Presently, the local Democratic Party has not made any requests for a State or local office primary. The deadline for calling a Primary is today, Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 5:00 pm.



# Frederick County, Virginia

Ellen E. Murphy

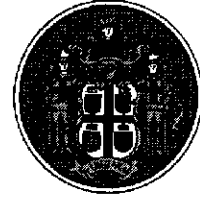
Commissioner of the Revenue

107 North Kent Street

Winchester, V A 22601

email: [emurphy@co.frederick.va.us](mailto:emurphy@co.frederick.va.us)

Telephone (540) 665-5681 Fax (540) 667-6487



## MEMORANDUM

TO: FREDERICK COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CHERYL SHIFFLER, FINANCE DIRECTOR

FROM: ELLEN MURPHY, COMMISSIONER

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2007

RE: ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BOARD FUNDING

The Virginia State Compensation Board made available a one-time appropriation for certain qualified purchases of technical and office equipment.

I requested reimbursement from the Board for purchases made through my budget. These are reimbursed at the "stress factor" of 19.99%. This resulted in a payment from the state to Frederick County of \$1,624.19. I am expecting the refund to be in fiscal year 2007.

I am requesting application of these funds to 12090-8007 to cover purchase of additional technological equipment and an additional printer.

Thank you for your consideration.



734-07-08: COMMISSIONERS OF THE REVENUE

NEW BUSINESS:

LOCALITY OFFICER REQUEST TOTAL COST COMPENSATION BOARD ACTION

LISTED BELOW COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

In response to the notification of funds re-appropriated by the Governor for equipment, Commissioners of the Revenue request reimbursement for equipment purchased or to be purchased in FY07.

\$19,038 Total Cost  
\$3,041.06 Stressed Cost

Action as noted in "Per Policy Quantity" and "Board Action" columns. Any amounts approved will be reimbursed at the stressed and reimbursable cost. Because this is a one-time approval, not in the base budget, any amounts not requested for reimbursement on or before the May 2007 payroll reimbursement request will not be available for expenditure in June 2007 or in FY08.

FIPS	LOCALITY	EQUIPMENT REQUESTED	REQUESTED QTY	UNIT REQUESTED COST	TOTAL REQUESTED COST	PER POLICY QTY	PER POLICY UNIT COST	TOTAL COST APPROVED	STRESSED AND REIMBURSABLE COST	LOCALITY CONCURRENCE	BOARD ACTION 2-21-07
013	Arlington County	Printers	3	393.00	1,179.00	3	393.00	1,179.00	153.07	Purchased	approved
013	Arlington County	Monitors	14	289.00	4,046.00	14	289.00	4,046.00	525.31	Purchased	approved
013	Arlington County	Upgrades	15	238.00	3,570.00	15	238.00	3,570.00	463.51	Purchased	approved
013	Arlington County	Upgrades	12	176.50	2,118.00	12	176.50	2,118.00	274.99	Purchased	approved
013	Arlington County	Upgrades	9	176.50	1,588.50	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Purchased	approved
013	Arlington County	Monitors	23	265.00	6,095.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Purchased	not approved
013 Total									1,416.87		
069	Frederick County	Copier	1	8,000.00	8,000.00	1	4,000.00	4,000.00	799.60	Purchased	approved
069	Frederick County	PC	3	1,109.00	3,327.00	3	1,109.00	3,327.00	665.07	Purchased	approved
069	Frederick County	Printers	1	798.00	798.00	1	798.00	798.00	159.52	Purchased	approved
069	Frederick County	Hand Held Computer	1	418.2	418.2	0	0	0	0.00	Purchased	not approved
069 Total									1,624.19		
GRAND TOTAL								19,038	3,041.06		

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS  
DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

A STUDY OF COUNTY PARTICIPATION

TO:           FREDERICK COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE  
              FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM:        ELLEN E. MURPHY, COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

DATE:        FEBRUARY 21, 2007

I have contacted several counties and received varying levels of cooperation. The following are the ones who provided sufficient information to be of use to our study.

CLARKE COUNTY (Contact: Allison Teeter)

Clarke county government does highly encourage participation by land owners in any easement program whether part of the county purchase system or a private foundation.

Clarke has set aside approximately \$150,000 annually during the last five years out of end of year funds (only to do so if extra funds are available) for easement purchases. Clarke already has restrictive development rights per parcel. They have been able to purchase about five farms in about five years. They emphasize participation in donations to foundations such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and have some properties that have conservation easements through such programs.

They have no set development right purchase cost. They base what they pay on the family income of the owners and an appraisal of the real property. Examples: Family income of \$50,000 or less Clarke government would pay 100% of the appraisal. Family income of \$200,000 they would pay about 6% of the appraisal.

Clarke uses grant funds in addition to the budget funding of \$150,000 per year mentioned above. They have collected \$250,000 and \$150,000 in grants in recent years and have another \$100,000 expected but have not completed the other work such as the identification of a specific parcel or the appraisal value.

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Contact: Ray Pickering)

(See copies of Fauquier County web pages attached.)

Fauquier uses a designated portion of their real estate tax to generate revenue for conservation easement purposes. FY2007 was 1 cent which generated revenue of \$1.3 million. This tax is collected by the Treasurer as part of the real estate tax billing but separately identified on the books as designated funds. Fauquier has also used roll back funds of about \$200,000 toward easement purchases. They solicit grant funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and have used a voluntary donation from the power company of \$1.5 million.

4.5 or 5 years ago Fauquier created a PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) committee for handling the purchase of development or conservation easements. They have approved about 25. They pay a flat rate of \$30,000 per right. Example a 100 acre farm may have five or six building rights depending on the zoning or lay of the land. Only rights lying in RA areas are considered.

LOUDOUN COUNTY (Contact: Julie Pastor, Diane DuCharm)

(See copies of Loudoun County web pages attached.)

Prior to 2004 Loudoun County had an active PDR program administered through the Department of Mapping. Currently the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is not funding such a program and no specific materials are available.

Loudoun does not discourage the private participation by a land owner in any foundation program to purchase land for permanent conservation easement.

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY (Contact: Beverly Atkins, Commissioner of the Revenue)

Rappahannock County encourages land owners to participate in a conservation easement program through any of the qualifying foundations such as Virginia Outdoor Foundation.

Rappahannock County did purchase a few building rights using \$60,000 of land use roll back funds in the past. They currently are not participating in this process by using any county funds.

Rappahannock has had some active participation in the conservation easement program through private foundations.



SHENANDOAH COUNTY (Contact: Kathleen Black, Commissioner of the Revenue)

Shenandoah County does not currently use county revenue for the purchase of development or conservation rights or easements.

There are several properties in Shenandoah County that are in a conservation easement program through a foundation such as the Virginia Outdoor Foundation.

WARREN COUNTY (Contact: Roy Broyles, Real Estate Department and Doug Stanley, County Administrator)

Some recently recorded parcels are in a conservation easement program per Mr. Broyles. Mr. Broyles believes there is an increase in interest in conservation donations of property.

Mr. Stanley said they have no current plans to use county funding for conservation easement property. He did say it looks like they will be actively seeking grants and of course, support the use of foundations for use by citizens who wish to donate property for such restrictions. They are currently working on getting a formal program started.

**ARTICLE XVII. CONSERVATION EASEMENT SERVICE DISTRICT\***

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**\*Editor's note:** Ord. No. 04-04, adopted April 19, 2004, added a new article XVII, sections 8-56--8-58. In order to avoid the duplication of section numbers, the provisions of said ordinance have been included herein as article XVII, sections 8-91--8-93, at the discretion of the editor.

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**Sec. 8-91. Creation, purpose and description of conservation easement service district.**

(a) There is hereby created a Fauquier County Easement Service District with boundaries that follow the boundaries of the county, and which district includes all real and personal property located within the boundaries of the county, a political subdivision of the commonwealth. No parcels or areas located within the boundaries of the district are excluded.

(b) The purpose of the district is to acquire open space conservation easements for the purpose of retaining or protecting natural or open space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forestal, recreational, or open-space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving the historical or architectural aspects of real property, and also to acquire conservation easements for the purpose of conserving lands for farming and to provide openspace to ameliorate the impact of development on the county.

(c) The proposed plan for acquiring the above-described conservation easements is for the county to acquire the easements by purchase, gift, proffer, donation or other authorized conveyance. When purchased, the cost of acquiring the easement may be financed by any or all of the following methods: the imposition of a service district tax, grants and donations of monies, and the expenditure of general tax funds.

(d) The benefits which can be expected from the acquisition of the conservation easements are the retention and protection of natural or open space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forestal, recreational, or open-space use, the protection of natural resources, maintenance or enhancement of air and/or water quality, the preservation of the historical or architectural aspects of real property, the conservation of lands for farming, and the provision of open space to ameliorate the impact of development on the county.

(Ord. No. 04-04, 4-19-04)

**Sec. 8-92. Conservation easement service district--Levy.**

(a) The board of supervisors may annually levy a tax on assessed value of all real property within the conservation easement service district, which tax shall be extended and collected in the same manner as real property taxes.

(b) The board of supervisors may annually levy a tax on assessed value of all personal property within the conservation easement service district, which tax shall be extended and collected in the same manner as personal property taxes.

(Ord. No. 04-04, 4-19-04)

**Sec. 8-93. Same--Use of levy.**

The county treasurer shall keep all amounts realized from any levy made pursuant to this article in a fund separate from all other monies of the county and all funds raised by this levy shall be applied and used for no other purpose than those set forth in this article.

(Ord. No. 04-04, 4-19-04)

Secs. 8-94--8-100. Reserved.

Lot not required to have Sewage sys disposal permit if in Rural Conservation Zon. Distr

## INCENTIVES

**Conservation Easements:** A conservation easement is a legal way for landowners to permanently protect their land from future development. Its purpose is to protect the natural, scenic, or historic values of the property. The owner retains title to the property, continued use of it (subject only to the easement restrictions), and the right to sell, lease or bequeath the property. Because the easement is granted in perpetuity and will apply to all future landowners, conservation easements provide permanent environmental protection for the land. Donation of a conservation easement on property generally qualifies as a charitable contribution for Federal tax purposes and would result in income and estate tax deductions. This provision of Federal tax law provides a cash incentive to owners of historic properties to protect them through donations of easements.

**Grants:** Grants are monetary funds made available from public/private foundations and/or the local, state or federal government for various projects. The funds are generally available only to nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 status such as historical societies, foundations, preservation groups, museums, and local governments. Grants often have stipulations attached as per their use and may require matching funds from the recipient. Matching funds can be made up of in-kind services, donated goods, and/or cash.

Grants for preservation related projects are available from a multitude of sources including the Department of Interior, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and public/private foundations. Grant programs in the past have funded architectural survey projects, Civil War related surveys and mapping projects, interpretive driving tours and building rehabilitation projects in the County. Grants provide the County with a way to undertake preservation projects, while only having to fund a portion of the project and maximizing returns.

**Land Use Assessment:** Loudoun County adopted the Land Use Assessment Program in 1973. The program provides for the partial deferral of taxes on real estate that qualifies for agricultural, horticultural, forestry and/or open space uses. Assessed values under the program are generally less than those estimated at fair market value. The purpose of the program is to further the public interest by encouraging the preservation of land and the conservation of the County's natural resources.

In Loudoun County owners of properties that adjoin a Virginia Byway or State Scenic River and that meet certain criteria may enter into a voluntary open space agreement with the County in order to receive a reduced tax assessment. The open space agreement is a seven to ten year commitment that requires the landowner to maintain the property in a manner that does not obstruct public views of the scenic area. The agreement prohibits the removal of trees and vegetation within the scenic viewsheds and limits subdivision and new construction on the property. The current requirements, which include stipulations for minimal acreage and/or river frontage, could be relaxed to protect more areas that currently do not qualify. Also the County could more actively promote the program to increase community awareness of the benefits of preserving open space.

**Low-Interest Loan Program:** A low interest long-term loan program for the rehabilitation and repair of historic building has been used by the Main Street Programs in many cities as a means of revitalizing the local communities. Usually a group of banks within a community pledge a fixed amount to the pool and then follow their normal loan requirements. The purpose of this program is to generate private investment in historic buildings and to keep the historic inventory in good repair.

**Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program:** The Loudoun County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program is a land conservation program that compensates property owners who voluntarily agree to sell the right to develop their land. The County established the PDR Program in 2000 as a way to preserve the county's valuable farmland and to protect the county's diverse natural, historic and scenic resources. Under the PDR program, the property owner places a conservation easement that limits the owner's right to develop his or her property. The limitations contained in the conservation easement are permanent restrictions on the property.

**Rehabilitative Tax Credits:** Rehabilitation tax credits are dollar-for-dollar reductions in income tax liability for taxpayers who rehabilitate historic buildings that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Rehabilitative tax credits are available from both the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The amount of the credit is based on total rehabilitation costs. The federal credit is 20% of eligible rehabilitation expenses and is applicable only to commercial projects. The state credit is 25% of eligible rehabilitation expenses and can be applied to residential and commercial projects.

As historic preservation is extremely labor intensive, rehabilitation efforts generate a greater number of jobs than typical new construction. In a typical historic rehabilitation project, 60 to 70 percent of the total cost is for labor, compared to roughly 50 percent for new construction. The higher percentage has immediate payoffs in the local economy since nearly all labor is hired locally. These workers, in turn spend their wages locally and pay local taxes. Enhanced property values generated by the Rehabilitative Tax Credit projects results in augmented revenues for local and state government through increased property, business and income taxes. From 1996 to 2002, there have been only 10 projects that have taken advantage of the state and federal Rehabilitative Tax Credit programs. The existing Rehabilitative Tax Credit program could be used as a catalyst for further economic development and building preservation throughout the County by promoting the program and offering technical assistance in the preparation of applications.

**Revolving Fund:** A Revolving Fund has many applications in the field of heritage preservation. Monies from such a fund could be put to a myriad of uses such as the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic structures. The properties are then marketed to buyers who agree to preserve and maintain the structures. Protective covenants are attached to the deeds to ensure that the historic integrity of each property is retained and purchasers are required to sign rehabilitation agreements based on the work to be performed on the structure. Any proceeds from the sale of the properties are returned to the fund, thereby 'revolving' the use of the initial capital.

**Tax Exemption for Revitalized Real Estate:** Loudoun County currently offers a partial tax exemption from real estate taxes for the rehabilitation, renovation and/or replacement of residential structures meeting specific qualifications. The amount of tax exemption is equal to the increase in assessed value attributed to the renovation and is applicable for a period 15 years provided certain requirements are met. The tax exemption program is currently only applicable to certain areas in the Broad Run-Sugarland District, Dulles-Arcola District, and the Mercer District, but could be expanded to apply countywide.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR):** TDR programs use market forces to protect open space, agricultural land, environmentally sensitive areas, historic landmarks and/or any other places that are important to a community while encouraging smart growth in developed and developing sections of a community. The owners of properties located within identified protection areas (known as "sending areas") may sell the development potential of their property to owners of property located in areas more suitable for development (known as "receiving areas"). The sending area property owner maintains ownership of the underlying land, but must agree to record a Conservation Easement on the property that protects the resource and restricts future development of the property. The owner of the receiving area property may then increase the permitted density on his property in an amount equal to what would have otherwise been built on the sending area property, thereby "transferring" the development potential from the sending area to the receiving area. Market forces determine the price of the transferred development right. This program has been very successful in preserving large portions of rural land in adjoining Montgomery County, Maryland. Currently in Virginia there is no state enabling legislation for a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

**Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21):** The Transportation Enhancements Program of TEA-21 is a federal reimbursement grant program for historic preservation projects; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities; establishment of transportation-related museums; and acquisition of scenic easements and scenic historic sites. The program provides federal reimbursement for non-traditional projects that have a transportation theme or are directly related to a transportation project. Sponsors from a municipality, state agency, or non-profit entity generally submit the applications.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has endorsed ten projects for Fiscal Year 2004 under the TEA-21 program which include funding for archeological studies, restoration and rehabilitation projects for County owned historic buildings and structures, land acquisition by non-profit groups for conservation easements and roadway enhancement projects. In the past the County has received grants for the rehabilitation of the Goose Creek Bridge, Purcellville Train Station, Mount Zion Church, the Stone House at Harper Park and an extension of the W&OD trail to Franklin Park.

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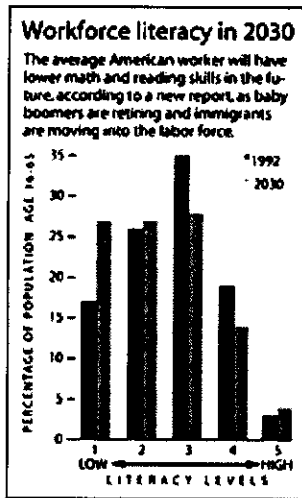
### Coming US challenge: a less literate workforce

**A larger share of workers will have minimal reading skills in 2030 than today, according to a report released Monday.**

By [Amanda Paulson](#) | Staff writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

US workers may be significantly less literate in 2030 than they are today.

The reason: Most baby boomers will be retiring and a large wave of less-educated immigrants will be moving into the workforce. This downward shift in reading and math skills suggests a huge challenge for educators and policymakers in the future, according to a new report from the Educational Testing Service (ETS).



[Click to enlarge](#)

SOURCE: "America's Perfect Storm," a report by Educational Testing Service/RICH CLABAUGH – STAFF

If they can't reverse the trend, then it could spell trouble for a large swath of the labor force, widen an already large skill gap, and shrink the middle class.

"There is no time that I can tell you in the last hundred years" where literacy and numeracy have declined, says Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston and one of the report's authors. "But if you don't change outcomes for a wide variety of groups, this is the future we face."

The decline in literacy is one of the more startling projections in a report that examines what it calls a "perfect storm" of converging factors and how those trends are likely to play out if left unchecked.

The three factors identified are: a shifting labor market increasingly rewarding education and skills, a changing demographic that include a rapid-growing Hispanic population, and a yawning achievement gap, particularly along racial and socioeconomic lines, when it comes to reading and math.

The individual trends have been identified before, but this study makes an effort to examine their combined effects, and to project a disturbing future, including a sharply declining middle class in addition to the lost ground in literacy.

"We have the possibility of transforming the American dream into the American tragedy," says Irwin Kirsch, a senior research director at ETS and the lead author of the study.

#### Ringling the alarm

He and the other researchers emphasize they're not saying the US is in any danger of collapse, or even that this grim scenario will come true. What they hope to do, they say, is call attention to urgent issues that affect not just many Americans' lifestyle, but the sort of democracy based on an informed middle class that the country was founded on.

"I hope it's viewed as an important warning sign," says Kurt Landgraf, president of ETS. "It's important for society to take notice of what's going on here in a macro way."

One factor that's been gaining increasing attention lately is the changing economic rewards in an economy in which demand for manufacturing and lower skilled labor is declining. It's become tougher for workers without higher education – or higher cognitive skills – to get the sort of job that can support a family.

But exacerbating the changes such an economic shift is causing are demographic factors, researchers say. Baby boomers are retiring and being replaced by less-skilled workers. A combination of immigration and population growth means that the share of the population that is Hispanic is expected to grow from 14 percent in 2005 to more than 20 percent by 2030. More than half of the immigrant Hispanics lack a high school diploma.

"Many immigrants enter [the US] without being able to read or speak English," says Mr. Landgraf. "Instead of forcing people to hide from the government infrastructure, we should be finding ways to include them in our society and help them bridge the language gap."

#### Turning to education

He and others suggest increasing attention and resources to early childhood education, to the social factors that affect young children, to continuing adult education, and to programs that keep kids from dropping out of school and address the achievement gap.

Some groups are already focusing on the issues, occasionally in surprising political coalitions.

Later this month, the US Chamber of Commerce – along with the liberal Center for American Progress and the conservative American Enterprise Institute – plans to release a report card grading states on their K-12 education in nine categories, together with an action agenda, says Arthur Rothkopf, a senior vice president at the Chamber of Commerce.

Solidarity with the Center for American Progress is unusual for his agency, he notes, "but we have to get the message out."

Like the ETS researchers, Mr. Rothkopf is particularly concerned about the growing mismatch of skills and workplace demands, and what that means for Americans' standard of living.

"We need to really rethink what we do," he says. "Hopefully this report among others will continue the drum beat."



**County of Frederick, VA  
Report on Fund Balance  
February 2007**

**Fund Balance, Beginning of Year, July 1, 2006** **32,429,542**

**Prior Year Funding & Carry forward Amounts**

Public Works 2007 4x4 truck carry forward	(24,000)	
Public Safety MAGIC system upgrade & maintenance carry forward	(26,000)	
Public Safety dispatcher testing software carry forward	(1,015)	
Public Safety CAD training & travel carry forward	(4,700)	
Public Safety tower repairs carry forward	(24,000)	
Telephone maintenance carry forward	(8,027)	
LaserFische board minutes webpage modification & maintenance carry forward	(600)	
Public Safety Center legal, staff, & engineering review carry forward	(31,099)	
Inspections scheduling system carry forward	(37,875)	
Recycling calendar carry forward	(2,800)	
COR phone and field units carry forward	(4,152)	
Clearbrook Convenience Center completion	(328,650)	
Warrior Drive pedestrian/bike trail completion	(87,633)	
2004 Homeland Security Grant carry forward	(21,337)	
Technology survey carry forward	(37,953)	
Forfeited Asset carry forward	(16,592)	
DARE carry forward	(4,900)	
School Operating funds carry forward	(21,655)	
School modular classrooms carry forward	<u>(622,287)</u>	(1,305,275)

**Other Funding / Adjustments**

Adjust Fire Company Capital Reserves	(55,799)	
Public Transit Lines	(80,000)	
Cook blast site cleanup	(20,000)	
Magistrate budget	(10,375)	
Clerk additional two Comp Board positions	(5,389)	
COR additional two Comp Board positions	(6,263)	
Sheriff additional two Comp Board positions	(24,948)	
COR reassessment staff	(19,487)	
Airport capital projects	(52,867)	
Audit Adjustments (includes School Operating)	677,970	
Maintenance Supervisor supplement	(37,030)	
Supplement- Sunnyside engineering study	(30,000)	
COR promotions	(3,428)	
Public Safety Building furniture & fixtures	(961,927)	
Public Safety Building utility trench and conduit	(250,000)	
Clearbrook Park sewer line project	(284,571)	
Public Safety Building operation & maintenance	(84,659)	
		<u>(1,248,773)</u>

**Fund Balance, February 2007**

**29,875,494**