



City of Alexandria

# General Assembly Update

Date: May 12, 2026





## Summary

- An update on the status of bills the City tracked from the General Assembly;
- Information regarding new laws that mandate City action, including action that may be required of Council; and
- Information on what new, permissive authorities are available to the City.

# Agenda



1. Legislative Priorities
2. Session Summary
3. Legislative Action Items
4. Pending State Budget
5. Legislative Action (Mandatory/Permissive)



# 2026 Legislative Package: *Seven Legislative Priorities*



Address Impacts of  
Federal Workforce and  
Funding Reductions



Advance Housing  
Affordability and  
Economic Opportunity



Rebuild Critical School  
Infrastructure



Address Mental Health,  
Public Health and  
Safety, and Community  
Well-Being



Advance Opportunity for  
All Alexandrians



Strengthen Transit,  
Infrastructure,  
Resilience, and Clean  
Energy Transition



Promote Civic  
Engagement and Election  
Integrity



# 2026 General Assembly

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**New Administration** – A newly elected governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

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**Long Session** – 2026 was a 60-day session and a budget year.

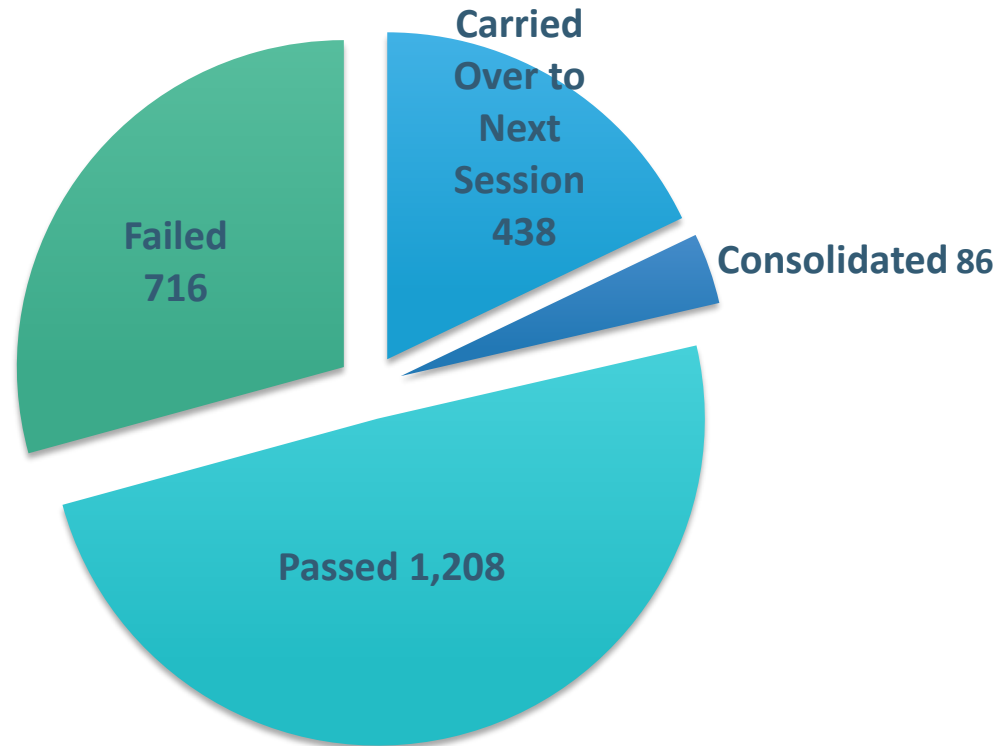
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**Federal Funding & Budget Pressures** – A strain on Commonwealth resources.



# 2026 General Assembly Bills

2,448 General Assembly Session Bills



**Bills**



# 2026 General Assembly Bills

## City of Alexandria

▶ Total Bills tracked: 607

## City of Alexandria-Tracked Bill Outcomes

Outcome	Total	Supported	Opposed	Watched
Signed into Law	303	236	8	59
Vetoed	3	1	1	1
Awaiting Governor's Action	29	17	0	12

**Bills**



# Legislative Activity



# Address Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions

## Federal Employee and Workforce Protections:

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB915 (Lopez) allows the City to extend deadlines on personal property taxes for federal employees during a shutdown.
  - ▶ Codifies existing practice and makes it uniform and easier to administer.
  - ▶ Permissive.
  - ▶ Requires adoption of an ordinance.
- ▶ HB772 (Thornton) facilitates faster alignment of workforce programs for displaced workers in certain urgent circumstances.
  - ▶ No City action required.
- ▶ HB494 (Guzman) gives former federal employees' status "consideration" when applying for employment with the Commonwealth.
  - ▶ No City action required.

### ▶ Legislation Pending:

- ▶ Budget (HB30/SB30): SNAP and Medicaid outcomes for backfilling costs from federal actions.



# Advance Housing Affordability and Economic Opportunity

## Housing Preservation & Tenant Protections

- ▶ **Legislation Passed:**
  - ▶ HB4 (Bennett-Parker) provides localities the right of first refusal to preserve affordable housing when properties are sold.
    - ▶ Permissive.
    - ▶ Requires adoption of an ordinance.
  - ▶ HB14/SB290 (Price/Aird) authorizes localities to enforce tenant protections in certain circumstances.
    - ▶ Permissive.
  - ▶ HB15/SB48 (Price/Rouse) increases the mandatory waiting period for a landlord to pursue remedies for termination of the rental agreement from five days to 14 days.
    - ▶ No City action required.
  
- ▶ **Legislation Pending:**
  - ▶ HB95 (Bennett-Parker) requires qualifying landlords to offer payment plans to tenants who owe one month or less of rent.



# Advance Housing Affordability and Economic Opportunity

## Faith in Housing

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB1279 (Cole) and SB388 (J. McPike) allows by-right residential development on land owned by certain qualifying religious and nonprofit organizations.
  - ▶ Mandatory (effective date: Jan. 1, 2027).
  - ▶ Requires adoption of an ordinance.



# Advance Housing Affordability and Economic Opportunity

## Consumer Affordability

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB770 (Herring) allows water and wastewater utilities to offer income-based rates for households earning up to 80% of area median income or 200% of the federal poverty level.
  - ▶ No City action required.
- ▶ HB884 (Herring) increases eligibility for energy assistance programs for low-income families.
  - ▶ No City action required.



# Address Mental Health, Public Health, and Community Well-Being

## Behavioral Health & Temporary Detention Order Response

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB681 (Hayes)/SB75 (Lucas) authorizes employment of retired law enforcement officers for emergency custody and temporary detention orders (TDOs).
  - ▶ Permissive.
- ▶ HB976 (Price) expands the use of alternative transportation providers for individuals in emergency custody and temporary detention orders (TDOs).
  - ▶ Permissive.



# Address Mental Health, Public Health, and Community Well-Being

## Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Technology

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ Ten bills passed that establish new authorities:
  - ▶ Permissive.
  - ▶ Longer period of time for localities to operate school safety technologies.
  - ▶ Authority to install new technologies at pedestrian crossings and stop signs.
  - ▶ Authority for the City to use technology in “safety red zones.”
  - ▶ Authorizes the City to hire justices of the peace and retired police officers to help with camera administration.
- ▶ New locality reporting responsibilities and funding limitations.



# Address Mental Health, Public Health, and Community Well-Being

## Gun Safety

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB93/SB38 (Bennett-Parker/Favola) and HB19/SB160 (McClure/Perry) expand restrictions on firearm possession for individuals subject to protective orders or convicted of domestic violence offenses.
  - ▶ No City action required.
- ▶ HB40/SB323 (Simon/Ebbin) bans untraceable “ghost guns.”
  - ▶ No City action required.

### ▶ Legislation Pending:

- ▶ HB217/SB749 (Helmer/Salim) prohibits the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
  - ▶ Sent back to Governor.



# Advance Opportunity for All Alexandrians

## Skill Games

### ▶ Legislation Vetoed:

- ▶ SB661 (Rouse) sought to authorize and regulate skill games in localities. Required an “opt-out” referendum.
  - ▶ The City **OPPOSED**.
  - ▶ ***Vetoed by the Governor.***



# Advance Opportunity for All Alexandrians

## Immigration Enforcement

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HB1441/SB783 (Lopez/Salim) restricts state and local law enforcement from entering into partnerships with immigration enforcement.
  - ▶ Mandatory.
  - ▶ Effective Date July 1.

### ▶ Legislation Pending:

- ▶ HB650/SB351 (Callsen/Salim) prevents immigration enforcement in certain sensitive locations.
  - ▶ Sent back to Governor.
- ▶ HB1482/SB352 (Schmidt/Salim) Prohibits any law-enforcement officer from wearing a facial covering while engaged in the performance of official duties, with exceptions.
  - ▶ Sent back to Governor.



# Advance Opportunity for All Alexandrians

## Constitutional Amendments

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HJ1/SJ1 (Herring/Boysko) provides a fundamental right to reproductive freedom.
- ▶ HJ3/SJ3 (Sickles/Ebbin) removes current constitutional definition of marriage and affirmatively require the Commonwealth to recognize any lawful marriage between two adults – regardless of sex, gender, or race.

These measures will be on the November 3, 2026, ballot.



# Promote Civic Engagement and Election Integrity

## Constitutional Amendments

### ▶ Legislation Passed:

- ▶ HJ4 (Willett) provided explicit authority to the General Assembly to modify congressional districts outside of the decennial cycle.
  - ▶ Redistricting referendum was on April 21.
  - ▶ Supreme Court of Virginia overturned the referendum.
- ▶ HJ2/SJ2 (Bennett-Parker/Locke) provides that anyone convicted of a felony, upon release, shall have their civil rights—including voting rights—restored.

The voting rights restoration measure will be on the November 3, 2026, ballot.



# Key Bills Not Yet Finalized

- **Collective Bargaining**
- **Cannabis Retail Market**
- **Paid Sick Leave**

# New Optional Authorities

- ▶ **40 bills provide optional new authority for the City**
- ▶ Topics include:
  - ▶ Housing and land use
    - ▶ EV vehicle requirements
    - ▶ Tax exemptions for affordable housing conversions
    - ▶ Homeowner assistance grants
    - ▶ IDA grants for affordable housing
  - ▶ Public Safety
    - ▶ Helmets for children riding scooters
    - ▶ Regional authority for emergency communications
  - ▶ Taxation, Finance, and Procurement
    - ▶ Separate tax rate for electric landscaping equipment





# Pending State Budget Bill (FY2027-FY2028)



# Budget Priorities for the City

## Transit



## Freedom House Museum



## Urban Area Security Initiative



## Schools



## Pass Through Dollars for Local SNAP Operations





# Rebuild Critical School Infrastructure

## School Construction Funding

### ▶ Legislation Did Not Advance:

- ▶ HB334 (Rasoul) / SB66 (J. McPike) / SB607 (Lucas) would have authorized a 1% sales and use tax for school construction if approved by voter referendum.

- ▶ *Did not advance.*

### ▶ Provisions Pending in the Budget:

- ▶ Authorization the 1% referendum is included in Senate version of the budget bill.
  - ▶ The current language would not allow localities to use the funding to pay down existing debt.
- ▶ Funding for the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. House provides \$250,000 in the first year of the biennium and Senate provides \$1.25 million over the biennium.



# Strengthen Transit, Infrastructure , and Clean Energy Transition

## WMATA and VRE Funding

### ▶ Legislation Did Not Advance:

- ▶ HB1179 (Tran), HB900 (Sullivan), SB638 (Ebbin), and SB730 (Surovell) would have created new regional, statewide, and permanent funding mechanisms.

- ▶ *Did not advance.*

### ▶ Provisions Pending in the Budget:

- ▶ The House budget bill provides \$153 million over the biennium for WMATA operating assistance.
  - ▶ No funding for VRE.
  - ▶ No funding for capital costs.
- ▶ The Senate budget bill seeks to use revenues generated by ending an existing tax exemption for qualifying data centers to provide \$14.8 million in funding for WMATA operations, \$1.1 million for VRE, and \$19 million for statewide transit systems.
  - ▶ Provides \$190.4 million in capital costs to WMATA over the biennium.



## Important Remaining 2026 General Assembly Dates

**May 22**

Last day for the Governor to consider legislation.

**TBD (Before July 1)**

Special Session Reconvene for the Budget.

**July 1**

Start of fiscal year and effective date for legislation (unless indicated otherwise).



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
**Office of Legislative Affairs**

# Questions?

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