VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

VLGMA Summer Conference

June 17, 2021





VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT (VIG)

About Us

- VIG was created in 1994 by the General Assembly
- VIG is a business unit of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
- Executive Director of the Cooper Center serves as Director of VIG (per legislation)
- Associate Director leads daily operations of VIG
- 190 Virginia cities, towns, and counties are active members
- Membership dues to VIG are based on population of locality



VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT (VIG)

VIG Mission

Our unit's mission is to help communities build governance capacity and to develop local government leaders across the Commonwealth and beyond. This includes making sure that VIG not only remains relevant, but becomes an indispensable partner for cities, counties, and towns.



WHAT DOES VIG DO?

Core Operations

VIG is responsible for the following areas of the Cooper Center's operations:

- Virginia local government support/membership, professional and technical assistance, and training programs
- Senior Executive Institute (SEI) and Leading, Educating, and Developing (LEAD), and other leadership development programs
- Constitutional Officer Education Program (Treasurers & Commissioners of the Revenue)



CURRENT VIG MEMBERSHIP

June 2021

- 191 total members
- 25 cities (38 total)
- 61 counties (95 total)
- 105 towns* (190 total)

*Towns with a population <1,000 automatically become members when the county they reside in joins



Where To Begin?

- Post election individual meetings for newly elected officials
- Formal organization orientation
- VML & VACO newly elected officials' conferences
- The courtship (existing CAO) or honeymoon (new CAO)



Roles and Responsibilities

- What is your council/board culture?
- Micromanagement to full autonomy spectrum
- Leadership team and staff interaction with council/board
- Trust . . . or lack thereof



Building The Relationship

- Meeting prep
- Regular meetings of one or two
- Board/Council make up and experience
- Role of the CAO the pendulum/board personalities



Final Thoughts

- Communication
- Code of Ethics
- Performance Reviews/Contracts
- Build your peer network
- Professional coaching
- Work/Life Balance discussion



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Need Help? Just #AskVIG.

Charles Hartgrove, ICMA-CM Associate Director Virginia Institute of Government <u>charles.hartgrove@virginia.edu</u>







