Legislative News

The General Assembly has begun their odd year "short" session which is scheduled to be a 30-day legislative session that opened on January 13th and is scheduled to end on February 11th. There have already been over 1,100 bills introduced for the session. The last day for bill introduction is January 22nd.

The legislators are still operating out of temporary office space as the construction of the new General Assembly building moves on. As the General Assembly gets underway, the initiative of Environmental Justice and additional environmental legislation continues from the 2020 session (SB 1373, HB 2074, HB 2221). An interesting piece of legislation is HB 1937 entitled the Green New Deal Act, etc., etc. which its goal seems to be the elimination of Virginia's use of fossil fuels. In the bill language is a definition of fossil fuels; which somehow includes landfill gas. In addition, the legislature is considering increased solid waste fees (SB 1210) to provide funding for the total direct costs of DEQ's Solid Waste Program.

The complete list of legislation and associated summaries that SWANA will be tracking; along with useful links to General Assembly information; is included in your Legislative Update that will be updated as the General Assembly continues its session. Stay informed and stay involved!

In the November election, a ballot question was included regarding amending the Constitution of Virginia to create a Redistricting Commission. The item passed with a 65.7% yes vote. The Commission will consist of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth. The Redistricting Commission has been selected and is currently working on establishing voting districts. The Commission is to convene every 10 years to review district boundaries. Information and actions of the Commission can be found at: https://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/.