

# **ADDENDUM**

## MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

December 11, 2018

### 7:30 pm – **REGULAR SESSION ADDENDUM**

1. Consider adoption of a resolution endorsing a statewide referendum on education funding



## City Council Agenda Summary

**Date:** December 11, 2018

**Item No:** Addendum 1

**Department:** City Attorney

**Issue:** Consider adoption of a resolution endorsing a statewide referendum on education funding.

**Summary:** Sen. Stanley is proposing a referendum on a significant increase in elementary and secondary education funding, and has stated this proposed resolution would be of assistance during the 2019 General Assembly.

**Attachments:** Proposed resolution

**Recommendations:** Approve on voice vote.



## ENDORISING A STATEWIDE REFERENDUM ON EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS Virginia has long led the nation in excellence in public education through its system of elementary, secondary and higher education; and

WHEREAS Article VIII Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia guarantees to its citizens “that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained: and in Article 1 section 15 “that free government rests, as does all progress, upon the broadest possible diffusion of knowledge, and that the Commonwealth should avail itself of those talents which nature has sown so liberally among its people by assuring the opportunity for their fullest development by an effective system of education throughout the Commonwealth”; and

WHEREAS the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees to all citizens the equal protection of the laws, and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of the United States has extended the protections of the Fourteenth Amendment to equality of opportunity and facilities in *Brown vs the Board of Education* and additional juridical decisions building upon that guarantee of equality; and

WHEREAS Virginia faces a growing and thus far underfunded need for the improvement and maintenance of its educational facilities across the commonwealth, a need which deprives its youngest citizens of equal access to educational facilities and opportunities of high quality; and

WHEREAS this denial of equality of access affects areas throughout the entire Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS Article 1 Section 2 of the Virginia Constitution states that “all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people,”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Martinsville that the concept of a statewide referendum, submitting the issue of funding for elementary and secondary education to the will of the people, is unanimously and wholeheartedly endorsed, that the City of Martinsville urges all localities across the Commonwealth to adopt similar resolutions, and requests that the General Assembly of Virginia to submit this issue to statewide referendum.

**Unanimously adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.**

**M. GENE TEAGUE**  
***MAYOR OF THE CITY***