



MYTHS ABOUT REVERSION

Citizen Questions or Comments

Questions or comments about reversion may be sent to town@ci.martinsville.va.us.
Please include your name, address and state whether you are a City resident.

Reversion will cost 500 jobs!

No one in the news media ever called anyone in the City about this.

Reversion Settlement MOU Section 10:

Continuation of Urban Services. Martinsville will continue to provide urban services to its town citizens in at least the same levels as it provided in its FY 2021 budget for all utility services, public safety, and MINET.

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Total City full time employees: 234

City utility (69), public safety (79) & MINET (4) jobs = 152

All other city jobs (admin (12), public works (35), others (35)) = 82

Constitutional employees (Not City employees; Constitutional Officers are independent):

Treasurer 5 (City likely will keep all)

Commissioner of Revenue 5 (City keeps 3, CoR eligible to retire, Assessor taken over by Henry County)

Commonwealth Attorney 9 (Comp Board auth 10 for new combined Henry County)

Circuit Court Clerk 7 (Clerk to retire, case load stays the same, Henry County Clerk indicates she will hire all who are interested)

Registrar 1 & occasional part time (Henry County Registrar has indicated interest in a satellite office here)

Sheriff 51 (Henry County is hiring our staff now; Henry County Sheriff's Dept. indicates a need for an additional 110 deputies)

Total 78



Schools	375 (avg.)
Teachers	167
Admin & Support	208
Students	1800 (approx.)

Note: Students taken into Henry County Public Schools continue to require this number of teachers to maintain current class sizes. Martinsville teachers will supply the most readily available talent pool to fill those positions.

The City is pushing off all debt onto the County!

Reversion Settlement MOU Section 11:

City Debt. The City shall retain all of its current debt following reversion. The City shall not incur any additional debt or agree to any encumbrances on properties being conveyed to the County.

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Total City debt: \$32M

What's never mentioned:

cost of Henry County Meadow View Elementary: \$24M

cost of new Henry County jail: \$70M ++

proposed cost to reopen Henry County's Lower Smith River sewer plant: \$24M



Does any of that contribute to Henry County's proposed tax increase in FY 21-22, or is blaming all of it on Martinsville more convenient?

Note: Henry County Administrator's TOTAL estimated cost of Reversion is only \$5M

Martinsville High School is going to close!

Reversion Settlement MOU Section 15:

School Operations. The parties agree that they will jointly apply as soon as practicable to the Harvest Foundation to fund a comprehensive study of the consolidated school system, with a view to educational quality, the efficient use of facilities, racial and economic equity, costs, the consolidation of administrative functions, academic and pedagogical concerns, and student achievement. The Virginia Department of Education and Board of Education will be invited to participate in the study. In the event that the Harvest Foundation refuses to fund the study, the parties shall direct their lobbyist to pursue funding for such study from the state legislature. As part of the study process, at least two (2) public hearings shall be held.

§ 22.1-125. Title to property vested in school board; exception; extent of school board's authority.

The title to all school property, both real and personal, within a school division shall be vested in the school board . . .

§ 22.1-79. Powers and duties.

A school board shall:

1. See that the school laws are properly explained, enforced and observed;
2. Secure, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the conduct of the public schools in the school division and take care that they are conducted according to law and with the utmost efficiency;
3. Care for, manage and control the property of the school division and provide for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and noninstructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;
4. Provide for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;

*Who's not making that decision: County Board of Supervisors
County Administrator*

“We haven’t made any decisions whatsoever.” ---- Sandy Strayer, HCPS Superintendent

§ 22.1-79. Powers and duties.

A school board shall:

8. Obtain public comment through a public hearing prior to providing . . . for the consolidation [closure] of schools . . .

\$9M spent improving Martinsville High School in 2011

Is 15 miles closer to the northern half of Henry County than Magna Vista

Is 12 miles closer to the eastern half of Henry County than Bassett

Currently, many Henry County students spend up to 2 hours on a school bus each day, to attend schools which are already near maximum capacity.

Your taxes will double!

There will be two bills: one from the County, and one from the Town.

Two *bills* do NOT mean doubled *taxes*.



§ 58.1-3005. Cities and towns to make city and town levies; funds not available, allocated, etc., until appropriated.

The council of every city and town shall annually . . . order the imposition of taxes in such amount as in their opinion is necessary to be raised.

Patrick Henry: *I know of judging the future but by the past.....*

Martinsville reversion studies have consistently concluded reversion will result in an overall tax reduction for Martinsville taxpayers. Henry County residents not living in the town of Martinsville will see an overall increase.

Martinsville Council represents the residents of *Martinsville*. They are elected by the voters of Martinsville and are answerable to them at every election.

Tax rates are set annually.

There has not been a real estate tax increase in Martinsville since 2013.

Council just reduced the tax rate, after property assessments went up, to keep City resident's tax bills the same.

Currently estimated savings to Town resulting from Reversion: \$15,800,000.

Schools	\$6.1M
Jail	\$4.2M
DSS & Health Dept.	\$1.8M
Courts	\$2.9M
Constitutional functions	\$0.8M

The Public has had no opportunity to speak out on Reversion!

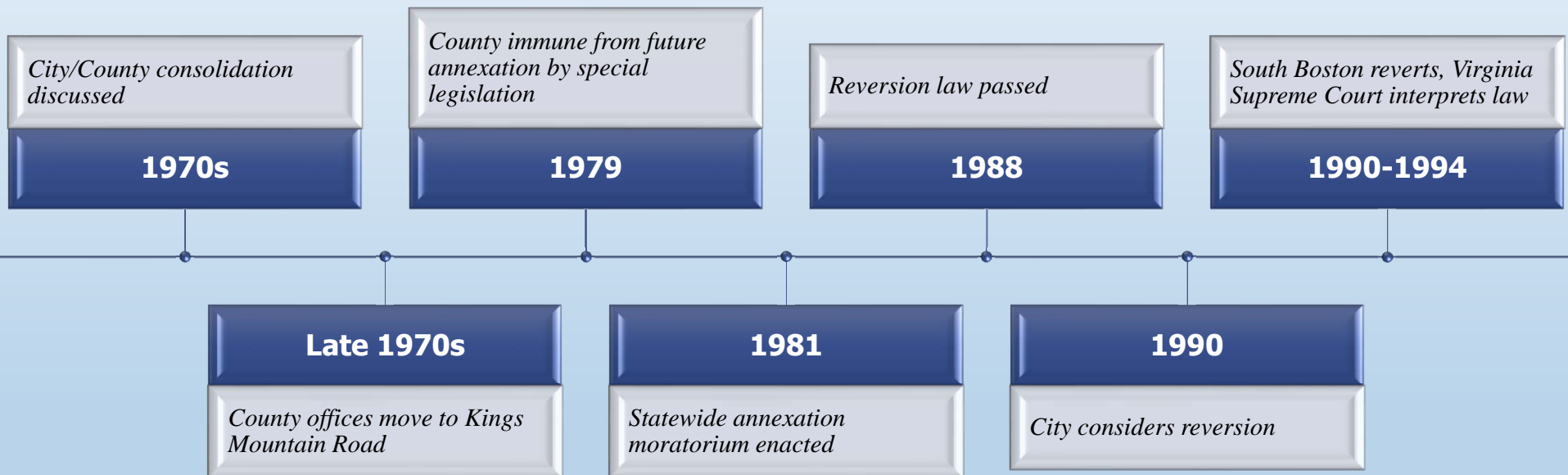
- Three public presentations in 2018 to hear from South Boston, Clifton Forge, and Bedford City & County.
- September 2018 Council work session on reversion.
Council voted to commission the required reversion studies on October 9, 2018.

Since the studies were commissioned:

- Public comment during Council meetings (including submission on written comments during COVID): 68
(2018: 5, 2019: 22, 2020: 21, 2021: 20)
- Neighborhood meetings: 4
- Reversion-specific presentations: 8 (process, finances/budget, studies, process, status, MOU, VSA, VSA/process)
- Reversion-specific public hearings: 4 (12.10.19, 3x2021)

Number of reversion public comments received at town@ci.martinsville.va.us since being established in 2019: 0

Martinsville never talked to us! There's been no public input!



Roanoke City and County consolidation rejected by voters

1990

City offers joint landfill, County rejects

1993-1994

City considers reversion

1995-1996

PSA offers merger with City utilities, City rejects due to PSA debt

2004-2005

1992-1993

City offers free courthouse site, County rejects

1995

County courts move to Kings Mountain Road

2000

Clifton Forge reverts

City considers reversion

2005-2006

MCPS & HCPS discuss merger, facilitated by Harvest. HCPS walks out (directed by HC)

2008

Bedford reverts

2012

2006

PSA rejects City offer to supply water to NE County, builds own lines

2011

Covington/Alleghany County consolidation rejected (schools merge 2020)

2012

City invites HC to comprehensive talks, HC rejects

City considers reversion, commissions studies. HC hires lawyer, has Marshall put in bill to require County vote, modified to require no abstention by Council. No vote occurs.

2012-2013

City commissions new reversion studies

2018

City hears presentations from South Boston, Clifton Forge and Bedford

2019

Council votes to revert

December 2019

2014

City considers reversion

2018

City and County cooperatively participate in COLG study regarding alternatives to annexation

October 2019

City invites County to negotiate. County rejects

*Council votes to
revert again*

January 2020

*City petition to revert
is filed*

August 2020

Second meeting—schools

October 2020

*Third meeting—PSA &
Annexation*

November 2020

Spring 2020

*Multiple invitations to
County to negotiate
are rejected*

September 2020

*County agrees to
negotiate, first
meeting*

November 2020

COLG logistical hearing

December 2020

*County files Answer
-concedes City meets
criteria
-contests costs and
timeline*

*Fourth meeting—
Mediation agreed*

January 2021

Approval of MOU

June 2021

COLG public hearing

September 2021

Public hearing on VSA

November 2021

April 28-29, 2021

Mediation

July 2021

Approval of VSA

October 2021

COLG report approving VSA