

## Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Executive Leadership

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*Protecting Earned Benefits of Active &  
Retired Federal Employees for over  
90 Years!*

## Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)

16,000 Members Strong

🌿 57 Local Chapters

🌿 An e-Chapter

🌿 10 Area Vice Presidents



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## National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)



## Virginia Federation of Chapters

## 2016 State Legislative Plan

*We Support State Legislation that  
Strengthens Fair & Efficient Governance  
and Protects the Rights, Safety, and  
Assets of Virginia's Seniors*



# NARFE 2016 State Legislative Plan - Virginia

## *Strengthening Fair & Efficient Governance*

### **Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform**

*Gerrymandering* reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General Assembly to pass legislation ensuring that future Redistricting is undertaken in a nonpartisan and transparent manner, conducted through impartial means, such as by an independent commission.

### **Senior Absentee Voting**

Most states now permit some form of no-excuse absentee voting for their citizens. We recommend that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that would allow no-excuse absentee voting for Virginia's seniors.

### **Transparency**

As members of the all-volunteer *Transparency Virginia* coalition, we ask General Assembly committees and subcommittees to use best practices for accountability and public participation by ensuring that: hearing notices give the public adequate time to attend; every bill is given due consideration; and, all final votes are recorded.

## *Protecting the Rights, Safety, & Assets of Virginia's Seniors*

### **Enhanced Protection of Incapacitated Adults**

Financial exploitation of vulnerable seniors is a growing problem. We support legislation that would expand the singular focus under current law on **mental** incapacity to include **physical disability** as well as **other factors**, such as social isolation.

### **Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance Premiums**

Health care costs continue to rise and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract their health insurance premiums from federal adjusted gross income, thereby lowering Virginia taxable income by the same amount, with no income restrictions.

### **Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation**

When taxpayers reach age 65, they are eligible for a State income tax deduction of \$12,000 if their single-filer income is less than \$50,000 or joint-filer income is less than \$75,000. If their income

exceeds these fixed limits, their deduction is reduced \$1 for every \$1 over the limit. This "means testing" is the result of legislation passed in 2004 and after more than ten years there has been **no adjustment for inflation**. We support an inflation-indexed age deduction for seniors to alleviate the long-term cost of living increases in food, health care, and energy.

### **Minimum Nursing Home Staffing Standards**

Nursing homes are notoriously understaffed. Federal regulations do not require certified nursing homes to maintain a specific staff-to-resident ratio or a minimum number of hours per resident day for resident care. While many states have adopted regulations requiring nursing homes to meet minimum staffing levels – expressed as a ratio of nurses and nurse aides to residents, including a specific number of daily direct care hours per resident – Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the General Assembly to act during this legislative cycle to address this critical need.

