



BLRJ Elects Vice Chair

January 7, 2026, the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) elected Lieutenant Joseph Tucker as Vice Chair. In the absence of the BLRJ Chair, the Vice Chair assumes all duties of the Chair. Lieutenant Tucker brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the BLRJ and we appreciate his willingness to serve. BLRJ Officers pictured from left to right: Secretary - The Honorable Joe McLaughlin, Vice Chair - Joe Tucker, and Chairman - David A. Hackworth. Please congratulate Mr. Tucker!

Inmate Reentry

Benefits Initiatives

On Wednesday January 7, 2026, the Virginia Department of Corrections' Reentry Benefits Manager, Kim Knoll presented to the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) - Liaison Committee to share an overview of inmate services to include medicaid enrollment, social security, disability, child support enrollment, and more. If local and regional jails would like to learn more about services, training, and other opportunities to support reentry efforts, please contact Ms. Knoll at

Kimberly.Knoll@vadoc.virginia.gov





UPDATE: Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Project

The Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail has officially broken ground on its long-anticipated renovation project, marking a major milestone after years of planning and community input. The upgrades will modernize the facility, improving accessibility, safety, and mental health care for inmates.

This project was approved by the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) in 2022 for the maximum state reimbursement of \$11,689,250 on a total project cost of just under \$47 million. Following design revisions and cost adjustments, construction is now underway, with completion expected by October 2027.

Local leaders emphasize that the renovation will provide ADA-compliant spaces and enhanced mental health facilities. BLRJ looks forward to monitoring progress on this important project.

NEWSLETTER

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

January 9, 2026

No. 4



Legislative Season is Upon Us...

The State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) remains committed to proactive legislative monitoring and transparent communication. As the General Assembly convenes and legislation advances, the BLRJ will continue to assess potential impacts and provide updates that may affect facility operations, compliance obligations, and/or regulations.

In anticipation of the 2026 legislative session, Chairman Hackworth established a legislative task force to assist with monitoring bills which may impact BLRJ or the greater jail landscape. Thank you to The Honorable Joe McLaughlin and Mr. Ryan Moore for the support and willingness to serve.

BLRJ January Actions & Highlights

- Launched the Continuous Quality Improvement Program. The first quarterly report link will be shared on February 2, 2026, with all CY26-Quarter 1 information due on April 15, 2026.
- Continued regulatory review work on 6VAC15-40, with proposed regulations for pregnant and postpartum inmates, and revisions to food service regulations.
- Completed 12 case reviews pursuant to Code of Virginia 53.1-69.1.
- In less than 2 years, BLRJ has received a regulatory reduction of -8.2% and a guidance document reduction of -13.3% in support of Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 19.

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