

TO: Mark C. Popovich, President, Local Government Attorneys of Virginia (LGA)
LGA Board of Directors
LGA Membership

FROM: 2023 LGA Nominating Committee

RE: Nominating Committee Report

DATE: March 3, 2023

The 2023 LGA Nominating Committee is hereby reporting its recommendations for your consideration and for presentation at the April 20, 2023, LGA Annual Meeting. This report is to provide you with information about our selection process and to report on our recommendations.

I. Officers

The Nominating Committee received a verbal report from the President informing us that all of the current officers are willing to serve in the “next” office for which they are eligible. All of the officers are professional and experienced local government attorneys who have demonstrated their commitment to the LGA. Accordingly, the Nominating Committee makes the following recommendations:

- *Lesa Yeatts, Herndon Town Attorney, for the office of President*
- *Andy Herrick, Deputy County Attorney, County of Albemarle, for the office of Vice-President*
- *Kelly Lackey, County Attorney, County of King George, for the office of Treasurer*

There is an opportunity for a current LGA director to move up into the office of Secretary. Typically, current LGA directors who have completed their two terms of eligibility as directors are given top consideration for this nomination. In this instance, Courtney Sydnor, who is completing her second term as director, submitted a nomination to move into the role of Secretary. The Committee also received two letters in support of Courtney’s nomination.

The Nominating Committee accordingly makes the following recommendation:

- *Courtney Sydnor, Sr. Deputy County Attorney, County of Loudoun, for the office of Secretary*

II. Directors Eligible for Reappointment

The Nominating Committee next considered the reappointment of two directors – Alan Spencer and Tyler Southall. They have each completed their first two-year term on the LGA Board and are eligible for reappointment for another two-year term. Both directors have been actively participating in LGA Board meetings and otherwise fully performing their responsibilities as

LGA directors. Consequently, the Nominating Committee recommends that the following directors be appointed for a second two-year term as an LGA Director:

- *Alan Spencer, City of Danville; and*
- *Tyler Southall, County of Dinwiddie*

III. Criteria for New Directors

The final task before the Nominating Committee was considering persons to serve as new LGA directors. There is a need for two candidates to be nominated to fill openings on the LGA Board. The Nominating Committee considered the selection guidelines from Policy & Procedures Manual Section 5-302 (c) and reviewed them with respect to the recommendations for the LGA Board of Directors made in the preceding sections:

1. Regional Representation: *2 directors are from Southwest Virginia, 4 are from Central Virginia, 1 is from Hampton Roads, and 4 are from Northern Virginia.*
2. City, County and Town Representation: *There is 1 Town representative, 6 County representatives, and 4 City representatives.*
3. Sophistication Factor: *LGA represents our most populous, governmentally sophisticated jurisdictions and our less populous, more rural localities. The following jurisdictions are represented: Albemarle, King George, Covington, Prince William, Herndon, Wise, Staunton, Hampton, Arlington County, Dinwiddie, and Danville.*
4. Gender and Minorities: *In evaluating potential candidates for board membership, the nominating committee should give due consideration to the value of an LGA board that is diverse in gender and race. There are 7 men and 4 women. Currently, there is one director who is black. In addition, a nominee on the slate for Secretary is black. If there are others who are members of an ethnic minority, I am not aware.*
5. Experience: *The LGA charter does not require board service as a condition to holding office. Nevertheless, the nominating committee should give due weight to the value of board experience for a candidate – and the value to the LGA of a candidate’s board service in selecting nominees for officers. This criterion was considered for the officer nominees, but not for the new director nominees.*
6. History of Jurisdictional Representation: *Recognizing that the LGA represents over 140 local governments, the nominating committee should be sensitive to the historical representation of jurisdictions on the board. No jurisdiction should be locked out of a chance of placing its legal representative on the board; neither should any jurisdiction have a lock on a seat. The Nominating Committee evaluated individual nominees.*

7. Deputy or Assistant Status: *There are 7 chief counsels and 4 deputies/assistants.*
8. Private Practitioners: *Currently, one officer is a private practitioner from Guynn Waddell, Carroll & Lockaby, P.C.*
9. Commitment: *Listed last, but probably the single most important attribute that the nominating committee should seek in every candidate is a commitment to LGA and to giving the time and resources required to continue its success. The Nominating Committee evaluated individual nominees.*

IV. New Directors - Selection

The Nominating Committee next considered the appointment of two directors to replace Courtney Sydnor and George Lyle, who have completed their second two-year terms and are not eligible for reappointment. The Nominating Committee received three nominations for these appointments and makes the following recommendation:

- *Martin Crim, Town Attorney, Culpeper, Warrenton, Haymarket, Occoquan, Middleburg, and Washington; and*
- *Patrick Murphrey, Assistant City Attorney II, City of Newport News*

It should be noted that the third nominee is highly qualified, however, in the Committee's deliberations there was a concern about having another director from a locality that is already represented on the board and the fact that there was a lack of representation from Hampton Roads localities. We are hopeful that a communication will be provided to the third nominee to explain why the decision was made not to select him so that he will apply again in the future.

I want to acknowledge and thank my fellow members of the Nominating Committee and LGA President, Mark Popovich, for their efforts and thoughtful deliberations in putting forward this slate of nominees.

2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cheran C. Ivery, Chair, City of Hampton

Alyssa D. Brown, County of Henrico

Jim H. Guynn, Jr., County of Alleghany

Rysheda M. McClendon, County of Stafford

Lawrence S. Spencer, Jr., Town of Blacksburg

Mark C. Popovich, LGA President, ex officio, City of Covington