

Mr. Deeds,

Good morning.

I wanted to acknowledge receipt of your email and respond on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

I appreciate you taking time to express your concerns about the consolidated Government Center. I'd like to address some of those concerns and share some resources where you can find more information about this project.

-----

### **Why do we need more office space?**

The County's population has grown significantly since our Mounts Bay campus was built in the 1970s. This continued growth requires more employees to provide County services and handle the increasing workloads. Over the years, we have added offices or converted conference rooms to accommodate the new positions. Today, many employees are sharing cramped workspaces and some of our aging facilities need major repairs. This is a problem that will continue to worsen over time. The County must take some action now to resolve these issues with a fiscally responsible long-term solution.

We recognize that the cost of this project is significant. The decision to propose this kind of expenditure was not taken lightly; it was borne out of a need for additional office space. One option is to expand or repair our current facilities. Another option is to construct a new building and bring most of our departments under one roof in a relatively central location in the County.

I believe that a new consolidated Government Center offers the greatest benefit, as it will likely create long-term cost savings, improve the visitor experience, and increase our staff's efficiency. Unfortunately, with projected inflation and rising construction costs, the longer we wait to address this problem, the cost for either of these solutions will likely increase.

### **Current status**

The Board of Supervisors has not yet approved construction of the consolidated Government Center. Currently, the Board has approved the design process, proposed site location, and the Special Use Permit for the proposed building site.

Later this summer, we expect to receive final cost for the project, and after that, the Board would be asked to vote on whether to approve construction and financing required to begin construction.

Prior to this vote, the Board of Supervisors has asked us to host a series of public meetings to ensure that community members understand what is being proposed and why it is needed. These meetings will likely be held later this year in August or September.

### **Why not ask our Citizens if they support the project via a referendum?**

Some citizens have suggested that this project should be put to referendum to allow citizens to vote on whether to move forward. However, while a referendum could potentially allow voters to weigh in on different options for funding this project, the actual decision about whether to build a consolidated Government Center cannot legally be put to referendum, per Virginia Code.

### **Why didn't I know about this project before now?**

We began studying our space needs issue in 2020 and have been talking about a consolidate Government Center since at least 2022. We have had numerous public meetings and there has been ongoing news coverage about a consolidated Government Center. Citizens' input has been invited through public hearings, public input sessions, a public survey and numerous presentations at town halls and other public speaking engagements. We created a webpage with information about the consolidated Government Center, including links to past Board of Supervisors discussions on the topic and an email address for citizens to share their input.

To ensure you are notified about future events, I can have our Communications team add you to the email list for our news releases or our monthly citizen newsletter, JCC News to Know. More information is available on our website at <https://www.jamestowncitycountyva.gov/4104/Proposed-County-Government-Center>

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Scott A. Stevens  
County Administrator  
June 23, 2025