



# A REPORT TO OUR CITIZENS

FISCAL YEAR 2018

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DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	FISCAL YEAR 2017	FISCAL YEAR 2018
Population	90,426	92,533
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	3.1%
Full-Time Equivalent City Employees	1,324	1,342
New and Expanding Businesses**	139(a)	158(b)
Per Capita Income**	\$47,533(a)	\$48,467(b)
Median Household Income**	\$65,499(a)	\$65,435(b)

\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Highest in Region

\*\*Most recent data available for New and Expanding Businesses, Per Capita and Median Household Income is Calendar Years 2015(a) and 2016(b).

Information taken from :  
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service,  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Virginia  
Employment Commission

## PROFILE OF THE CITY OF SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

The present City of Suffolk was formed January 1, 1974 from the consolidation of the City of Suffolk and the City of Nansemond (formerly Nansemond County). The City is Virginia's largest City in land area and one of the top fifteen largest cities in land area in the nation with over 400 square miles of land mass and 30 square miles of waterways. The diverse landscape includes a mix of rural, suburban and urban development areas. The City is situated in the western portion of Hampton Roads, Virginia's coastal plain area, and is bound by the James River to the north, the Cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth to the east, the State of North Carolina to the south, and the Counties of Southampton and Isle of Wight to the west. The City of Suffolk is one of seven major cities that form the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News metropolitan area with 1.6 million people. This region is also known as the Hampton Roads area. The City's government is organized under the Council-

Manager form of government. The governing body, the City Council, is composed of seven members and a Mayor who collectively develop policies for the administration of the City. The Mayor is elected at large and each Council Member is elected by borough in a citywide election every other year, with terms of office being four years. The City Council appoints a City Manager to act as administrative head of the City. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of City Council and carries out the City Council's policies and directs business procedures. The City Manager also appoints the Directors of all Departments. As a full service City, Suffolk provides a broad range of municipal services authorized by statute or charter. These services include education, public safety, highways and streets, parks and recreation, sanitation, health and social services, public improvements, planning and zoning, public utilities, storm water management and general administrative.

# HOW ARE WE DOING?

## PERFORMANCE REPORT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY MEASURES



### FISCAL YEAR 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reaffirmed bond rating upgrade on the City's general obligation bonds to AAA by Fitch Ratings.
- The Department of Public Works for Suffolk and Chesapeake completed construction and roadway improvements to Nansemond Parkway – Portsmouth Boulevard, a heavily traveled highway connecting both cities. Now widened and a divided four lane roadway with median breaks and improvements including a multi-use path, sidewalk, left turn lanes, roadway lighting, median landscaping, and more. This joint effort was not only cost-effective but has also greatly improved the commute on this section of roadway for citizens of both cities.
- The Suffolk Police Department received the John T. Hanna Drive Safe Hampton Roads Award for reducing the frequency and severity of vehicle crashes on Route 58 and Route 10. Accidents involving personal injury were down 59% per month average compared to the year to date average per month for the previous 5 years.
- Suffolk Public Library was named as one of seven special honor libraries to receive \$1,500 from Shark Tank's Mark Cuban and software company Zoobean as part of their inaugural Winter Reading Challenge. The money was used to support library classes and events.
- Provided Immunization services to 436 citizens and Family Planning Services to 524 citizens.
- Held the Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Citizens Academy for the citizens of Suffolk and CSI Camp for children ages 12-15.
- Our National Night Out placed first in the nation in our population category, making this the 13th year in a row we've finished in the Top 5 nationally.
- Completed the Lone Star Lakes Park Master Plan, completion of phase 1 of the Bennett's Creek Park Trail, construction of the Lake Kennedy Park Trail and renovations to The Planter's Club and Planters Park.
- Implemented a Citizens' Fire & Rescue Academy where attendees could learn firsthand about the inner workings and operations of the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department.

### KEY MEASURES

Community Indicators	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	Projected 2018
<b>Public Safety</b>			
Average Police response times to priority 1 calls (in minutes)	5:55	5:44	5:56
Number of Animal Adoptions	828	729	700
Average fire response times (in minutes)	6:54	6:51	6:54
Number of fire/safety inspections	N/A	116	195
<b>General Government Administration</b>			
Unassigned General Fund Balance Level at/above 12% per city policy	15.3%	14.9%	16.1%
Real Estate Tax Collection Rate	98%	98%	98%
<b>Judicial Administration</b>			
Number of victims and witnesses assisted by Commonwealth Atty's office	4,775	4,452	4,541
<b>Public Works</b>			
Tons of refuse collected annually	37,500	39,363	43,000
Tons of recycled refuse collected	5,645	5,821	6,100
<b>Health and Welfare</b>			
Percent of Children with primary health care provider within two months of enrollment	40	35	38
<b>Education</b>			
Student Enrollment	14,383	14,359	14,359
High School Graduation Rate	87.0%	87.1%	86.7%
<b>Transportation</b>			
Ridership	101,616	113,084	112,208
<b>Parks, Recreational and Cultural</b>			
Library Circulation	338,618	321,900	325,000
<b>Community Development</b>			
Percent of inspections performed within 2 business days or less	N/A	92%	90%
Economic Development - Amount of Capital Investment (in millions)	\$85.0	\$80.0	\$100.0
<b>Community Outreach</b>			
Commonwealth Atty number of community outreach programs attended	138	140	136
Fire Safety House Presentations	42	45	50
Emergency Management - number of training exercises conducted	3	3	3
Health Department, number of males participating in pregnancy planning/prevention programs	287	336	336



What would you like to see reported on this page? Please let us know by contacting the City's Finance Department at [FinanceEmail@suffolkva.us](mailto:FinanceEmail@suffolkva.us), or 757-514-7500.

Additional information is available at the City's website, [www.suffolkva.us](http://www.suffolkva.us).



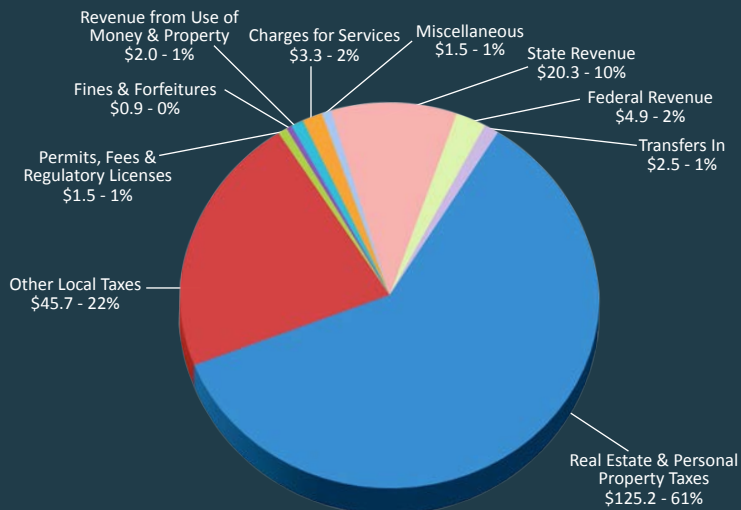
# THE CITY'S FINANCES

## REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES



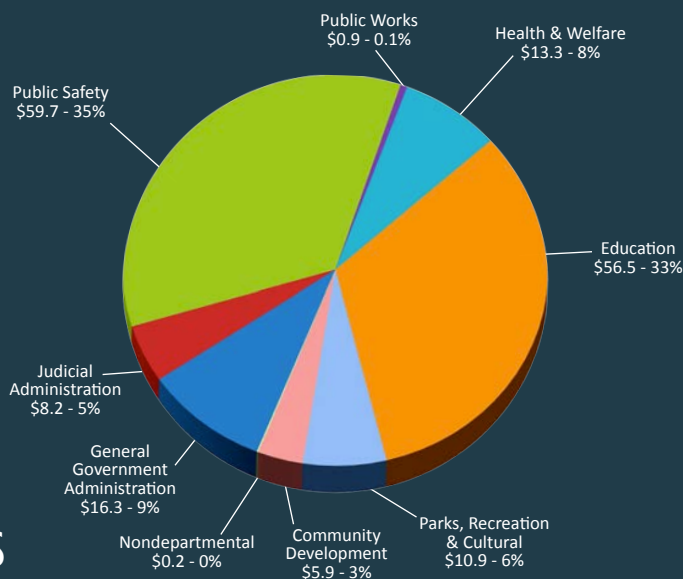
### GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY SOURCE (IN MILLIONS)

Revenue by Source:	FY Ending 06/30/17	FY Ending 06/30/2018
Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes	121.7	125.2
Other Local Taxes	43.2	45.7
Permits, Fees & Regulatory Licenses	1.3	1.5
Fines & Forfeitures	0.7	0.9
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	1.2	2.0
Charges for Services	3.4	3.3
Miscellaneous	1.7	1.5
State Revenue	21.3	20.3
Federal Revenue	5.5	4.9
Transfers In	2.5	2.4
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>202.5</b>	<b>207.7</b>



### GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION (IN MILLIONS EXCLUDING TRANSFERS)

Expenditure by Function:	FY Ending 06/30/17	FY Ending 06/30/2018
General Government Administration	15.6	16.3
Judicial Administration	8.0	8.2
Public Safety	56.4	59.7
Public Works	0.9	0.9
Health & Welfare	13.3	13.3
Education	54.9	56.5
Parks, Recreation & Cultural	10.4	10.9
Community Development	9.1	5.9
Nondepartmental	0.3	0.2
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>168.9</b>	<b>171.9</b>



### OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY FUND (IN MILLIONS) EXCLUDING TRANSFERS AND DEBT PROCEEDS

Revenue by Fund:	FY Ending 06/30/17	FY Ending 06/30/2018
Capital Projects	9.1	16.9
Road Maintenance	25.1	25.2
Debt Service	0.3	0.3
Nonmajor Funds	5.8	5.5
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>47.9</b>

Expenditure by Fund:	FY Ending 06/30/17	FY Ending 06/30/2018
Capital Outlay	46.2	56.1
Public Works	24.0	22.9
Debt & Assoc Costs	26.9	26.4
Nonmajor Funds	4.4	4.5
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>109.9</b>

The City's financial statements are audited annually by an independent auditor. This audit resulted in a clean audit opinion for Fiscal Year 2018.

Complete financial information can be found on our website at [www.suffolkva.us](http://www.suffolkva.us).

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you like this report? What other information would you like to see contained in this report? Please let us know by contacting the Finance Department at [FinanceEmail@suffolkva.us](mailto:FinanceEmail@suffolkva.us), or 757-514-7500.

Please see the City's website at [www.suffolkva.us](http://www.suffolkva.us) for additional information, including the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the City Profile and Statistical Digest.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO SUFFOLK



Suffolk continues to be a dynamic City where smart growth and development are keys to the future. Suffolk continues to trend in a positive direction when it comes to new businesses

joining the economic scene and showing that we are a destination for exciting things in Hampton Roads. I am proud of our City, our government, and our residents and what lies ahead in 2019 and years to come!  
~ Patrick Roberts, City Manager

## UPCOMING CAPITAL PROJECTS

The City has adopted a ten year Capital Improvement plan to cover the needed improvements throughout the City.

Some of these Improvements include:

- Open Space Improvements
- Airport Improvements
- Holland Road widening

### *It's a good time to be in Suffolk*

- Economic Development efforts brought 712 new jobs to Suffolk.
- New and existing businesses have invested \$114 million in creating or expanding business in Suffolk.
- The Real Estate tax rate of \$1.11 (as of 7/1/18) per \$100 of assessed value is the 3rd lowest in the region.
- City's funding per pupil for school operations is \$4,194.



## ABOUT CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORTING

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) developed guidance on producing Citizen Centric Reporting as a method to demonstrate accountability to residents and answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?" Additional details can be found at the AGA Website: [www.agacgfm.org/citizen/](http://www.agacgfm.org/citizen/)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### THE CITY'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND MOVING FORWARD



The City is committed to being responsible stewards of our taxpayer dollars and will continue to address the strategic needs and priorities of the City through the implementation of cost reduction strategies. A good measure of the City's ability to cope with unexpected financial challenges or emergencies is the ratio of unassigned General Fund balance as a percentage of the budgeted governmental funds expenditures. The target for this ratio is 12%. The City has exceeded this target by nearly 4% for FY2018.

The economy of Suffolk remains healthy as evidenced by the following trends:

- Unemployment is 3.1%, down from 4.1% in the previous year.
- Median Home sales price is \$260,000, approximately the same as last year
- Median Household Income is \$65,499, approximately the same as last year.

As the City continues to attract residents and businesses alike to live, work and play within its boundaries, we are challenged with the impacts of the 12 miles of railroad tracks which traverse throughout the community. Working with lawmakers to identify and implement funding solutions to address these impacts will continue to be a priority for City leaders.

The City Council has adopted the following goals to clarify the direction of the City over the next 1-5 years:

1. Promote Strong Financial Management and Fiscal Accountability.
2. Provide Effective and Efficient Programs and Services that are Accountable and Customer Focused.
3. Promote a Safe, Healthy, and Diverse Community in which to Live, Work, Learn, and Play.
4. Diversify and Enhance the Local Economy.
5. Provide Safe and Quality Transportation Options.
6. Promote Citizen Engagement.

