Section I.

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Introduction

Hampton Roads is a dynamic metropolitan region complete with a rich history, a diverse landscape, and a growing population of more than 1.7 million people. The region's vibrant mix of people, places, and employment opportunities combine to make Hampton Roads a choice destination for people to live, work, and play. As with any metropolitan area, there are many factors that have bearing on the region's quality of life. A closer look at a network of socioeconomic metrics is necessary to understand the region's strengths and weaknesses and to provide context for the challenges that face the region.

The purpose of the Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study is to shed light on metrics and statistics that provide insight into the region's well-being, and to present information to assist in the decision-making process on matters pertaining to quality of life. To that end, the benchmarking study provides 154 graphs and illustrations to help better understand Hampton Roads' relative well-being, both compared to other regions and with respect to changing regional trends.

The Study is comprised of 14 sections that cover measures of the region's economy, various industries, demographics, transportation system, education system, government finances, and quality of life. It also includes metrics on each of the regions' localities in relation to one another.

The introduction section begins with a table which ranks and compares Hampton Roads on a variety of metrics to the 39 reference metropolitan areas which have a population between 1 and 4 million. It also contains a data profile for the region and each of the 17 member localities of the HRPDC (sources for the data are found on page 22).

This study may best be used as a reference guide to assist in understanding the various facets of the regional economy. Graphs, illustrations, and datasets are available for download via the Commission's website at http://www.hrpdcva.gov/page/benchmarking.

American Community Survey Data for Hampton Roads

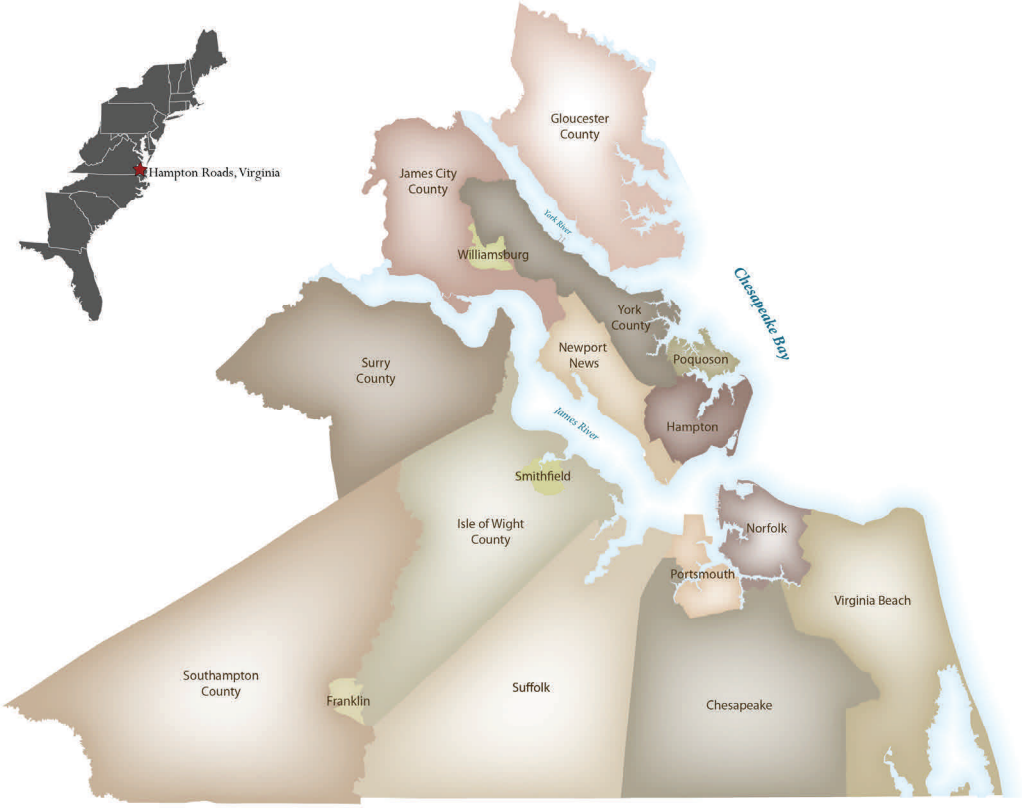
Uses American Community Survey One-Year Estimates 2017

Ranking is from Largest Value (Rank 1) to Smallest Value (Rank 39)

Category	Hampton Roads Value	Hampton Roads Rank*	Median MSA Value	Virginia	USA
Demographics					
Median Age	36.1	32	37.3	38.2	38.1
% of Population 17 & Younger	22.2%	25	22.8%	22.1%	22.6%
% of Population 65 & Older	14.2%	23	14.4%	15.0%	15.6%
% of the Population Who are White and NonHispanic	54.9%	29	64.1%	61.7%	60.6%
% of the Population Who are Balck or African American	30.0%	3	11.8%	18.8%	12.3%
% of the Population Who are Hispanic	6.8%	26	9.5%	9.3%	18.1%
% of Population Who Moved in Past Year	18.3%	4	15.4%	15.3%	14.3%
% of Population Who Are Foreign Born	6.5%	31	9.4%	12.5%	13.7%
% of Who Don't Speak English at Home	9.3%	33	12.9%	16.5%	21.8%
Birthrate per 1000 women (15 - 50 Years Old)	54	15	53	50	52
Teen Birthrate per 1000 women (15-19 Years Old)	5	34	9	8	12
Commuting					
Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	24.4	28	25.7	28.6	26.9
% Who Traveled to Work by Public Transit	1.6%	26	2.0%	4.2%	5.0%
% Who Worked Outside County of Residence	45.9%	3	23.0%	42.6%	24.0%
Education					
% of People Who Completed High School	91.5%	8	90.5%	89.7%	88.0%
% of People Who Have a Bachelor's Degree	32.1%	27	34.6%	38.7%	32.0%
% of People Who Have an Advanced Degree	12.5%	23	13.0%	16.7%	12.3%
Housing					
Average Household Size	2.58	19	2.58	2.64	2.65
Average Family Size	3.14	26	3.17	3.2	3.26
% of Households With Children in Residence	32.2%	12	31.6%	31.5%	30.8%
% of Housing Units that are Owner-Occupied	62.0%	28	64.4%	66.6%	63.9%
% Owners Spending >30% Income on Housing	24.4%	9	20.6%	21.1%	22.3%
% Renters Spending >30% Income on Housing	51.7%	9	48.6%	46.9%	49.5%
Employment and Income					
% Labor Force Participation	66.7%	15	65.8%	65.7%	63.2%
% of Labor Force in the Armed Forces	8.3%	1	0.2%	2.5%	0.6%
Median Household Income	$64,255	15	$61,571	$71,535	$60,336
Per Capita Income	$32,493	22	$33,048	$37,442	$32,397
Other Indicators					
Gini Coefficient	0.45	35	0.46	0.47	0.48
% of People in Poverty	12.3%	17	12.1%	10.6%	13.4%
% of Children Under 18 Years in Poverty	18.7%	14	17.0%	14.0%	18.4%
% of People With a Disability	14.3%	6	12.0%	11.9%	12.7%
% of Veterans in the Civilian Population	16.2%	1	7.4%	10.6%	7.3%
% without Health Insurance Coverage	8.9%	15	7.7%	8.8%	8.7%
% of Children without Health Insurance	4.4%	16	3.8%	5.1%	5.0%

**Rank & Median Value is for all MSAs with 2017 Populations between 1 - 4 Million, 39 in Total*

Hampton Roads



Population (2017)	1,729,326
Area in Square Miles	2909
Population Density (2017)	594.5
Population Growth 2012—2017	24,668
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	1.4%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	4.2%
Employment (2017)	742,786
Unemployment (2017)	4.2%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	14.3%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$100,658
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	91.6%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$65,907

Chesapeake

City Council

Mayor Rick West

Vice Mayor John M. deTriquet

Mr. R. Stephen Best

Mr. Matthew R. Hamel

Mr. Robert C. Ike Jr.

Mr. Dwight M. Parker

Ms. Debbie Ritter

Ms. Susan R. Vital

Dr. Ella P. Ward

Population (2017)	242,655
Area in Square Miles	340
Population Density (2017)	713.7
Population Growth 2012—2017	14,445
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	6.0%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	4.4%
Employment (2017)	99,486
Unemployment (2017)	3.9%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	9.5%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$100,884
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	93.1%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$69,978

Franklin

City Council

Mayor Frank W. Rabil

Vice Mayor Barry W. Cheatham

Mr. Brenton D. Burgess

Mr. Wynndolyn H. Copeland

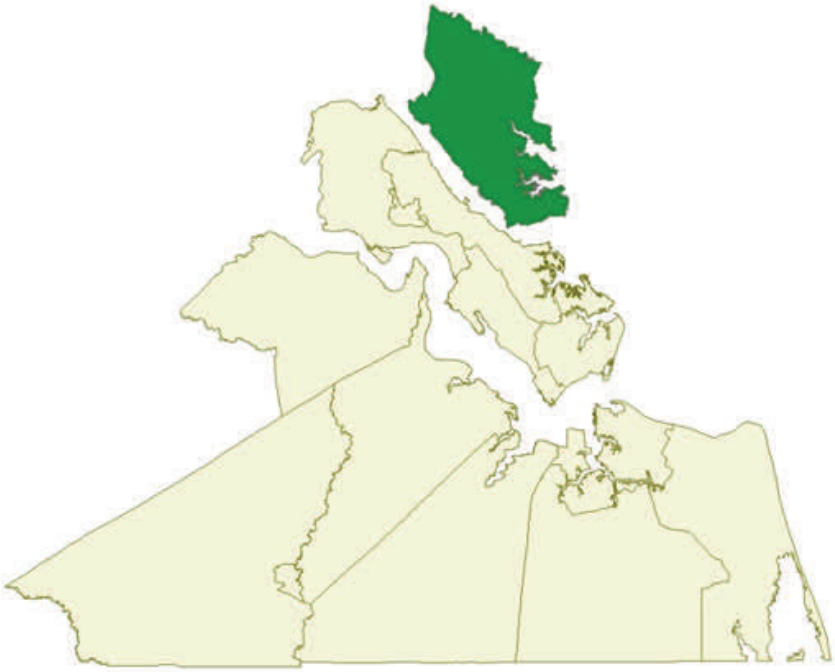
Mr. Robert Bobby Cutchins

Mr. Linwood Johnson

Mr. Greg McLemore

Population (2017)	8,474
Area in Square Miles	8
Population Density (2017)	1,059.3
Population Growth 2012—2017	-365
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-4.3%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-2.5%
Employment (2017)	4,245
Unemployment (2017)	5.5%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	16.7%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$63,991
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	88.2%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$38,333

Gloucester County



Board of Supervisors

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Mr. Andrew James Jr.

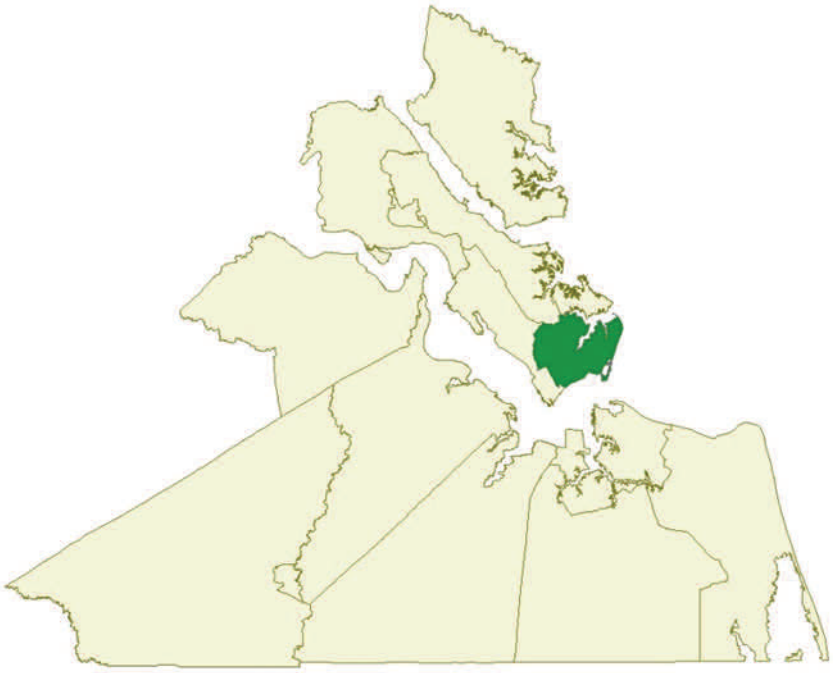
Mr. Robert Orth

Mr. Kevin M. Smith

Mr. Michael R. Winebarger

Population (2017)	37,169
Area in Square Miles	225
Population Density (2017)	165.2
Population Growth 2012—2017	193
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	0.5%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-1.5%
Employment (2017)	9,335
Unemployment (2017)	3.4%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	7.6%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$114,517
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	92.6%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$62,878

Hampton



City Council

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

Vice Mayor James Gray

Ms. Eleanor Brown

Mr. Steven L. Brown

Ms. Linda D. Curtis

Mr. W.H. Hobbs

Ms. Chris Osby Snead

Population (2017)	136,743
Area in Square Miles	52
Population Density (2017)	2,629.7
Population Growth 2012—2017	-2,105
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-1.5%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-0.9%
Employment (2017)	54,447
Unemployment (2017)	5.1%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	15.6%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$76,592
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	92.5%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$49,890

Isle of Wight County

Board of Supervisors

Chair Rudolph Jefferson

Vice Chair William McCarty

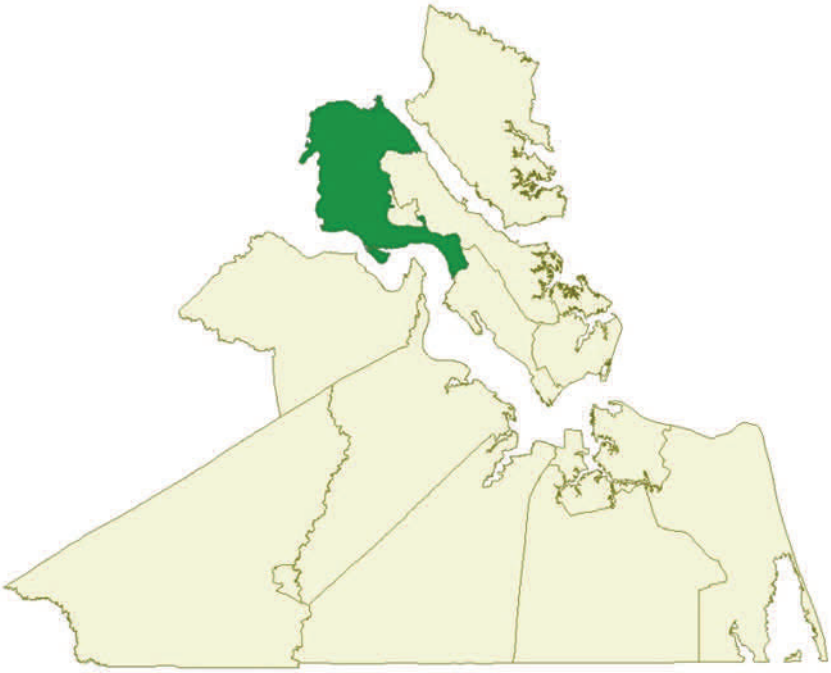
Mr. Joel C. Acree

Mr. Richard L. Grice

Mr. Don Rosie

Population (2017)	37,333
Area in Square Miles	316
Population Density (2017)	118.1
Population Growth 2012—2017	1,153
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	3.1%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	6.6%
Employment (2017)	10,726
Unemployment (2017)	3.9%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	10.9%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$115,608
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	93.7%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$66,835

James City County



Board of Supervisors

Chair Ruth Larson

Vice Chair Jim Icenhour

Mr. Michael Hipple

Mr. John J. McGlennon

Ms. Sue Sadler

Population (2017)	74,722
Area in Square Miles	153
Population Density (2017)	488.4
Population Growth 2012—2017	5,176
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	6.9%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	9.5%
Employment (2017)	29,563
Unemployment (2017)	3.6%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	7.9%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$157,696
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	92.0%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$80,226

Newport News

City Council

Mayor McKinley Price

Vice Mayor Tina L Vick

Ms. Saundra Nelson Cherry

Mr. Marcellus L. Harris, III

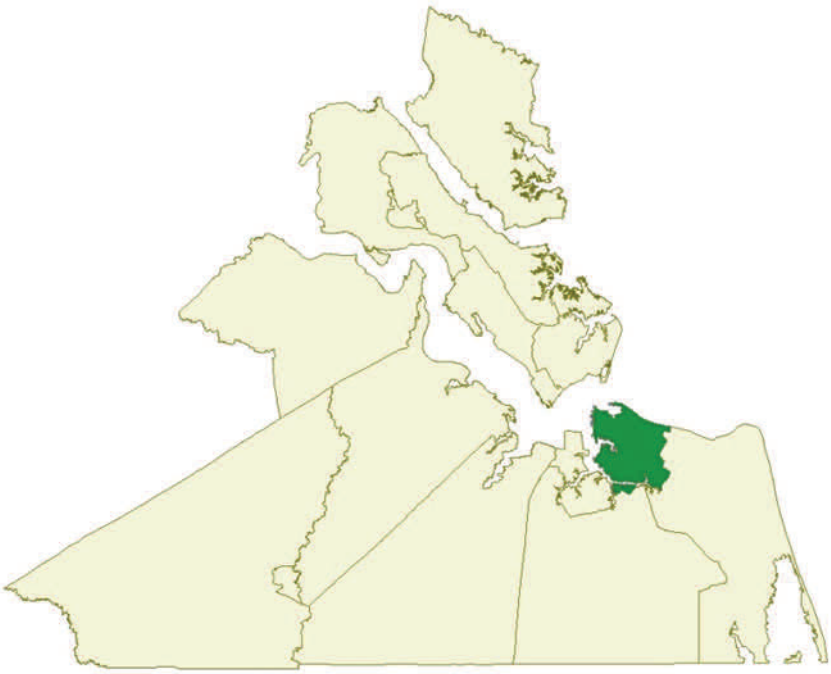
Mr. David H. Jenkins

Ms. Sharon P. Scott

Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury

Population (2017)	182,155
Area in Square Miles	70
Population Density (2017)	2,602.2
Population Growth 2012—2017	-1,176
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-0.6%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	1.6%
Employment (2017)	97,754
Unemployment (2017)	4.7%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	16.1%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$79,916
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	93.0%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$50,089

Norfolk



City Council

Mayor Kenneth C. Alexander

Vice Mayor Martin A. Thomas, Jr.

Ms. Courtney Doyle

Ms. Mamie Johnson

Ms. Andria P. McClellan

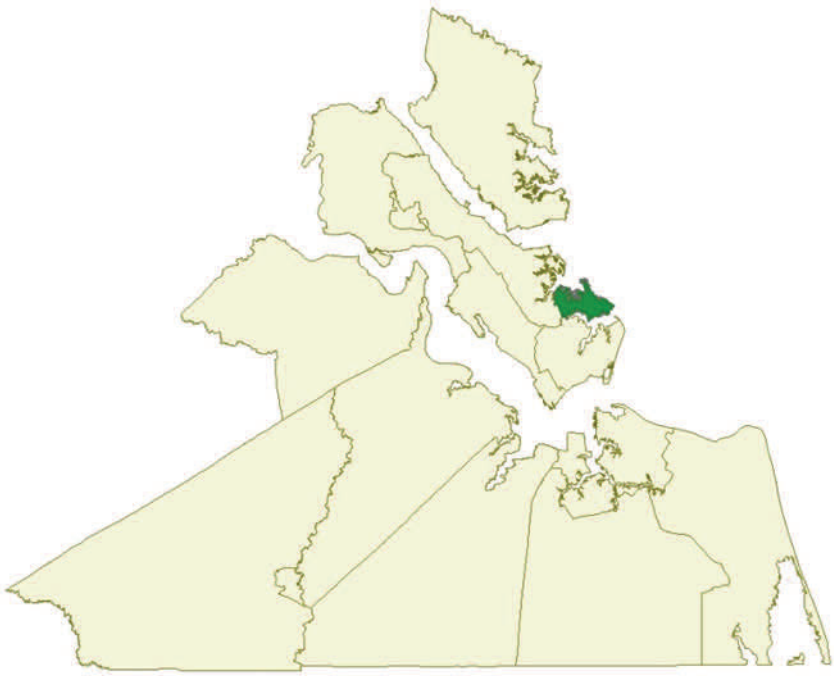
Mr. Paul R. Riddick

Mr. Thomas R Smigiel Jr.

Ms. Angela Williams-Graves

Population (2017)	246,256
Area in Square Miles	54
Population Density (2017)	4,560.3
Population Growth 2012—2017	453
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	0.2%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	3.0%
Employment (2017)	141,959
Unemployment (2017)	4.7%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	21.0%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$76,600
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	82.3%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$45,268

Poquoson



City Council

Mayor W. Eugene Hunt Jr.

Vice Mayor Carey L. Freeman

Ms. Jana D. Andrews

Mr. Thomas J. Cannella II

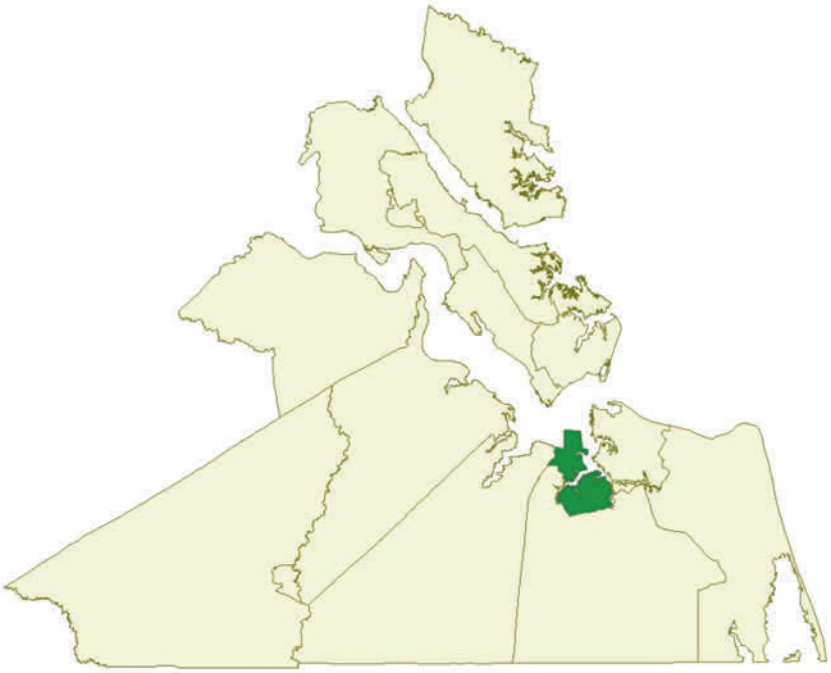
Mr. Herbert R. Green Jr.

Mr. David A. Hux

Mr. Charles M. Southall III

Population (2017)	12,311
Area in Square Miles	16
Population Density (2017)	769.4
Population Growth 2012—2017	20
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	0.2%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	4.9%
Employment (2017)	1,814
Unemployment (2017)	3.5%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	4.7%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$123,726
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	94.4%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$84,643

Portsmouth



City Council

Mayor John Rowe

Vice Mayor Elizabeth M. Psimas

Mr. Nathan J. Clark

Ms. Lisa Lucas-Burke

Mr. William E. Moody Jr.

Mr. Ray A. Smith Sr.

Dr. Mark M. Whitaker

Population (2017)	95,440
Area in Square Miles	33
Population Density (2017)	2,892.1
Population Growth 2012—2017	-2,010
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-2.1%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-0.6%
Employment (2017)	43,638
Unemployment (2017)	5.4%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	18.2%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$74,276
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	86.0%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$47,050

Smithfield

Town Council

Mayor T. Carter Williams

Vice Mayor Michael G. Smith

Ms. Valerie C. Butler

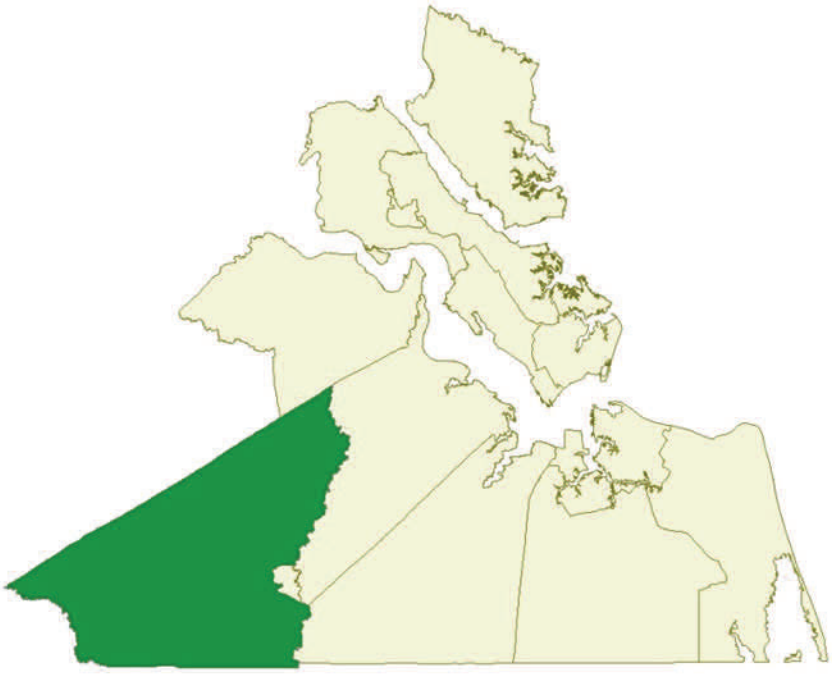
Ms. Beth Haywood

Mr. Randy Pack

Ms. Denise N. Tynes

Population (2017)	8,435
Area in Square Miles	10
Population Density (2017)	843.5
Population Growth 2012—2017	323
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	3.8%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	Included in Isle of Wight
Employment (2017)	Included in Isle of Wight
Unemployment (2017)	Included in Isle of Wight
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	10.2%
Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	Included in Isle of Wight
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	Included in Isle of Wight
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$82,958

Southampton County



Board of Supervisors

Chair Dallas O. Jones

Vice Chair Ronald M. West

Mr. R. Randolph Cook

Dr. Alan W. Edwards

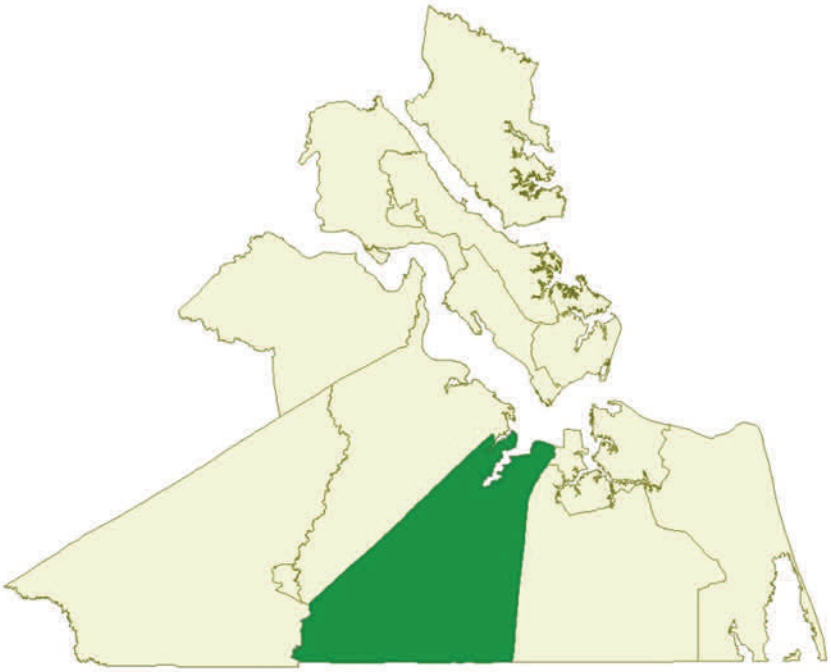
Mr. Carl J. Faison

Mr. S. Bruce Phillips

Mr. Barry Porter

Population (2017)	18,119
Area in Square Miles	600
Population Density (2017)	30.2
Population Growth 2012—2017	-559
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-3.1%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-2.9%
Employment (2017)	3,652
Unemployment (2017)	3.8%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	14.7%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$75,083
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	83.1%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$51,032

Suffolk



City Council

Mayor Linda T. Johnson

Vice Mayor Leroy Bennett

Mr. Michael D. Duman

Mr. Roger W. Fawcett

Mr. Donald Z. Goldberg

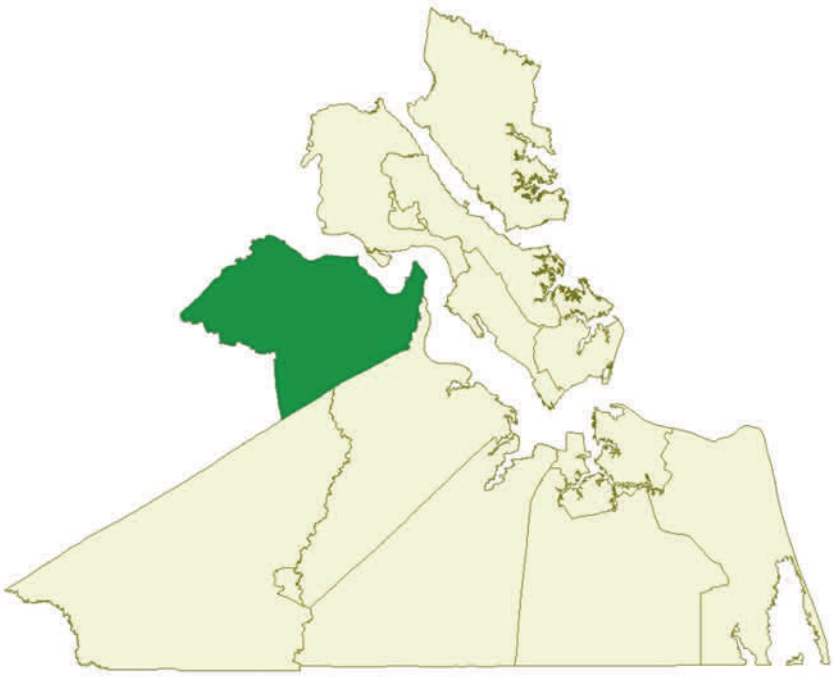
Mr. Timothy J. Johnson

Mr. Curtis R. Milteer Sr.

Mr. Lue R. Ward Jr.

Population (2017)	92,533
Area in Square Miles	400
Population Density (2017)	231.3
Population Growth 2012—2017	6,070
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	6.6%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	15.6%
Employment (2017)	30,826
Unemployment (2017)	4.2%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	11.5%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$100,283
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	86.7%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$65,435

Surry County



Board of Supervisors

Chair John M. Seward

Vice Chair Michael Drewry

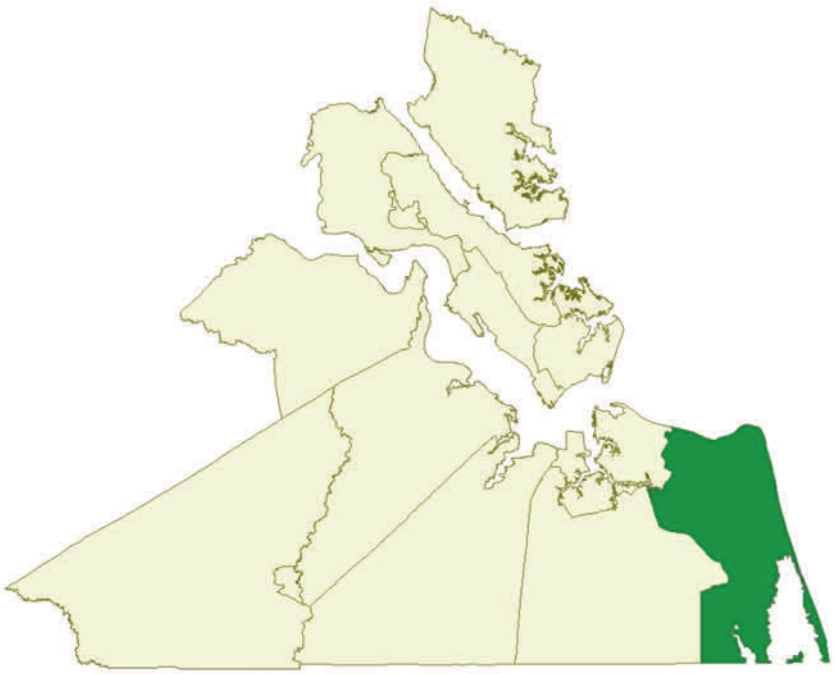
Mr. Kenneth R. Holmes

Ms. Judy S. Lyttle

Mr. Giron R. Wooden Sr.

Population (2017)	6,674
Area in Square Miles	279
Population Density (2017)	23.9
Population Growth 2012—2017	-253
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	-3.8%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	6.8%
Employment (2017)	2,385
Unemployment (2017)	4.5%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	11.9%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$136,133
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	93.8%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$56,632

Virginia Beach



City Council

Mayor Louis R. Jones

Vice Mayor James L. Wood

Ms. Jessica Abbott

Mr. Benjamin Davenport

Dr. Robert M. Dyer

Ms. Barbara M. Henley

Ms. Shannon DS Kane

Mr. John Moss

Mr. John E. Uhrin

Ms. Rosemary Wilson

Population (2017)	454,448
Area in Square Miles	248
Population Density (2017)	1,832.5
Population Growth 2012—2017	6,959
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	1.5%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	8.4%
Employment (2017)	178,341
Unemployment (2017)	3.6%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	8.2%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$118,614
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	93.3%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$67,719

Williamsburg

City Council

Mayor Paul Freiling

Vice Mayor Douglas Pons

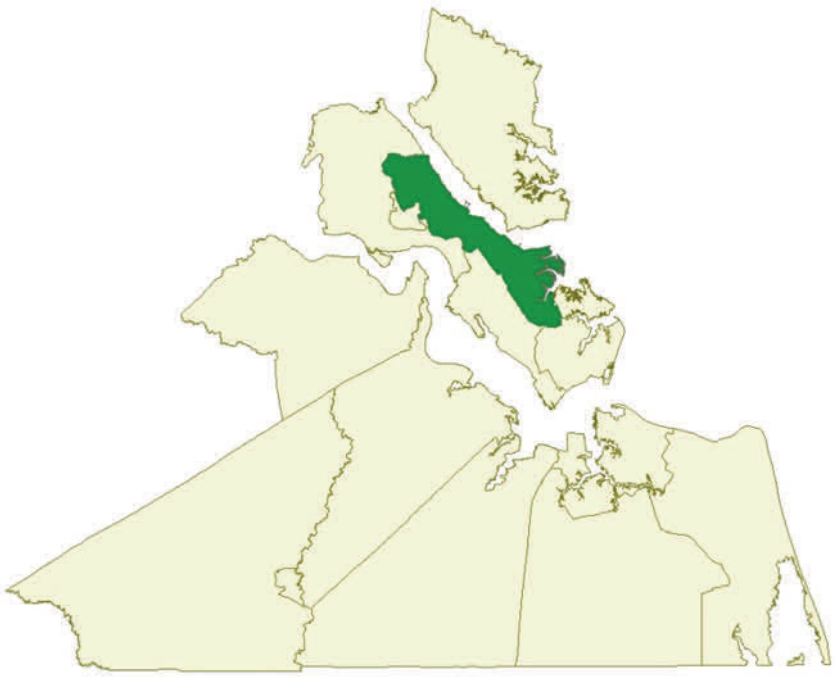
Mr. Ted Maslin

Ms. Barbara Ramsey

Mr. Benming Zhang

Population (2017)	15,404
Area in Square Miles	9
Population Density (2017)	1,711.6
Population Growth 2012—2017	901
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	5.8%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	-5.1%
Employment (2017)	13,016
Unemployment (2017)	5.3%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	22.8%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$118,565
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	92.0%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$50,091

York County



Board of Supervisors

Chair Ms. Sheila S. Noll

Vice Chair Thomas G. Shepperd Jr.

Mr. Chad Green

Mr. Jeffrey D. Wassmer

Mr. Walter C. Zaremba

Population (2017)	68,890
Area in Square Miles	106
Population Density (2017)	649.9
Population Growth 2012—2017	2,462
Percent Population Growth 2012-2017	3.6%
Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017	3.8%
Employment (2017)	21,599
Unemployment (2017)	3.6%
Poverty Rate (2012-2016)	6.2%
Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016)	$131,895
On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)	96.9%
Median Household Income (2012-2016)	$83,410

Notes

Data Sources:

- Population (2017)- Weldon Cooper Center
- Area in Square Miles– HRPDC
- Population Density (2017)- Weldon Cooper Center, HRPDC
- Population Growth 2012—2017- Weldon Cooper Center, HRPDC
- Percent Population Growth 2009-2014- Weldon Cooper Center, HRPDC
- Percent Employment Growth 2012-2017- Virginia Employment Center, HRPDC
- Employment (2017)- Virginia Employment Commission
- Unemployment (2017)- Virginia Employment Commission
- Poverty Rate (2012-2016)- U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
- Per Capita Taxable Value of Real Estate (2016) - Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, Weldon Cooper Center, HRPDC
- On Time High School Graduation Rate (2018)- Virginia Department of Education
- Median Household Income (2012-2016)- U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey