



## About GO Virginia

GO Virginia is an initiative by Virginia’s senior business leaders to foster private-sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration by business, education, and government. The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and Fund was approved by the 2016 Virginia General Assembly, and is a business-led, bipartisan initiative that is incentivized and encouraged by the Commonwealth of Virginia, however participation is not required of localities. An organizing workgroup made up of staff from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and interested economic development, workforce training, community planning and development, education, and business leaders from around the state met in 2016 to recommend geographic partitioning and Fund guidelines and procedures to the Board. Nine regions were established and each region formed councils that were certified by the Board in March 2017. The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board is comprised of 24 members with representation from the House and Senate, Gubernatorial appointments, and private sector leadership. In addition to approving GO Virginia regions and certifying regional councils, the Board is responsible for determining project funding.

## GO Virginia Region 5

Region 5 consists of the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; and the counties of Accomack, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton, and York.



Reinvent Hampton Roads serves as Region 5’s support organization, providing fiduciary oversight and administrative services. Learn more online at [www.reinventhr.org](http://www.reinventhr.org).

### Region 5 is focused on the following target sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cybersecurity/Data Analytics/Model-Sim
- Logistics/Port Operations/Warehousing
- Shipbuilding and Repair
- Water Technologies
- Unmanned Systems and Aerospace

## Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority

One of the most notable 2019 GO Virginia projects in Region 5 was related to a regional unmanned systems project that included funding for the development of a regional industrial authority. The Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (EVRIFA)



was born out of this process and formed through the structure of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Regional Industrial Facilities Act. EVRIFA will be a broader tool, beyond its initial unmanned systems project, for the region’s participating localities to work cooperatively to enhance economic development sites and share the collective benefits of an increased regional tax base.

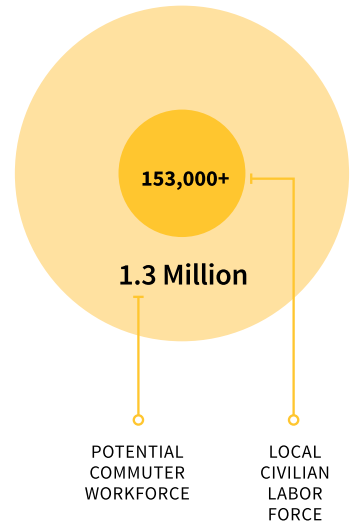
Each participating locality has two representatives on the EVRIFA Board. The following member localities comprise EVRIFA:

- City of Chesapeake
- City of Franklin
- City of Hampton
- City of Newport News
- City of Poquoson
- City of Williamsburg
- Gloucester County
- Isle of Wight County
- James City County
- York County

# LEVERAGE regional partners



The Greater Williamsburg Partnership (GWP) is a collaborative regional effort to leverage resources and collectively market the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County for economic development opportunities.



2016

In 2016, the **Greater Williamsburg Partnership** (GWP) was formed with the mission to market the GWP region, to foster job creation, to facilitate new investment, to diversify our economy and to nurture and improve quality of life in our region.

The GWP Board of Directors consists of **19 members** representing the private sector, local elected officials, local chief administrative officers, local economic developers, local economic development authorities, William & Mary, and Thomas Nelson Community College.

JULY 2019

In July 2019, GWP merged with the Business Council to further leverage regional resources to market Greater Williamsburg for new job creation and investment opportunities and to diversify the regional economy.

OCT 2019

In October of 2019, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance announced Voncile “Von” Gilbreath as the new GWP Director.



**“The Greater Williamsburg area is strategically positioned to build upon its rich history and capitalize on its proximity to markets, Port of Virginia and access to a skilled workforce to name a few assets. Now is the time to tell the story of Greater Williamsburg’s economic advantage as a preferred business location. I look forward to collaborating with the community at large to advance this goal.”**

— VONCILE “VON” GILBREATH  
Greater Williamsburg Partnership Director



## Pegasus Partners

The GWP is leading a regional marketing strategy with Pegasus Partners, a global consulting firm. Pegasus Partners specializes in site selection services for mittelstand (mid-sized) companies locating from Europe to North America and vice-versa. This initiative is focused on bringing long-term foreign direct investment (FDI) to the region in the form of high-paying, high-quality jobs in target industries. GWP leaders and partners are leveraging this partnership to recruit businesses in Europe to the Greater Williamsburg region.