



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Virginia NAACP Supports Legislation Impacting FOIA Charges

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia State Conference NAACP (Virginia NAACP) supports HB 2007 *Virginia Freedom of Information Act; posting of fee policy by a public body*. This bill, introduced by Delegate Danica Roem, will add transparency to the FOIA fee structure eliminating subjective estimations.

Virginia NAACP President Robert N. Barnette, Jr. issued the following statement today:

“Submitting a FOIA request should not be cost-prohibitive to citizens or to organizations. We should know what we will be expected to pay. Our experience is evidence that over-estimations are unfair and it could be impossible for some to pay. We will fight to ensure that the FOIA process is accessible to all Virginians.”

In October 2022, the Virginia NAACP, together with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Office of the General Counsel of the NAACP, and the law firm Hogan Lovells US LLP, sent a letter to the Office of the Attorney General formally requesting all public records related to the establishment of the Elections Integrity Unit, its organization and staffing, activities, and financial expenditures, as required under state law. The Office of the Attorney General responded with an exorbitant fee estimation of nearly \$20,000, which we paid and were later refunded over \$9,900.

The Virginia NAACP will stand with Virginians in ensuring our democratic process is transparent, fair, and just for all Virginians.

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### ABOUT THE VIRGINIA NAACP

*Founded in 1935, the Virginia State Conference of NAACP Branches (Virginia NAACP) is the oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization in the Commonwealth, overseeing over 100 NAACP branches, youth councils, and college chapters. The Virginia NAACP is the preeminent voice of Black Virginians and advocates for policies and programs to benefit Blacks and people of color. You can read more about the Virginia NAACP’s work and our six “Game Changer” issue areas by visiting [NAACPVA.org](http://NAACPVA.org).*

**Virginia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**  
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