



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Makes E-mails from Governor Timothy M. Kaine Available Online

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For Immediate Release

(Richmond, VA) Every four years in Virginia, the outgoing governor prepares for the next phase of his life and career, while the governor-elect creates a team and legislative agenda to launch the beginning of a new term. Every four years in Virginia, the Library of Virginia receives the official records of the outgoing administration and works with the new administration to plan record keeping for the next four years. In between, the governor and his key staff make tough policy decisions on transportation, education, and the budget, while responding to unexpected issues or emergencies. During that same time period, the Library of Virginia works to make the previous governor's records open to the public to illuminate the processes, struggles, and compromises that underscore the decision-making process.

In January 2010, the Library of Virginia received from the administration of Governor Timothy M. Kaine (2006–2010) one terabyte of electronic records including 352,081 office files (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDFs), 229 e-mail boxes, 32,000 images, 338 video files, and 332 audio files. At the time, this was the second and the largest electronic records transfer the Library had ever received. The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the release of 66,422 of the approximately 1.3 million e-mails from the Kaine administration transferred to the Library of Virginia four years ago. This first batch comprises e-mails from individuals in Kaine's Executive Office. "We are proud to be the first state government archives in the United States to make the e-mails of a previous administration freely available to the public online," said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway. Access to the collection and other related content is available at www.virginiamemory.com/collections/kaine.

The Kaine administration online collection is organized alphabetically by administration staff member and is full-text searchable. The e-mail messages reveal the real-time reactions of the governor's top staff members to the issues facing the commonwealth. Whether formulating a strategy to address the future of Fort Monroe, dealing with business closures and relocations, planning for weather-related disasters, garnering legislative approval for the governor's legislative priorities, or weighing in on drafts of State of the Commonwealth addresses, the e-mails reveal the behind-the-scenes strategizing and communication among the governor and his senior staff. The efforts of the

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Kaine administration to deal with shortfall in the state's biennial budget as the nation suffered through the worst economic downturn since the 1930s are well-documented in these electronic communications.

Members of the Executive Office include the governor, chief of staff, counselor to the governor, and their deputies and assistants. Included in this initial release are the e-mail files of Tim Kaine, William Leighty, Wayne Turnage, Larry Roberts, Mark Rubin, and Stephen Harms. Other familiar names in Virginia government are prevalent in this collection, including: members of the McDonnell and the McAuliffe administrations such as Ric Brown, Marla Decker, Suzette Denslow, Anne Holton, Martin Kent, and Felix Sarfo-Kantanka; and two current General Assembly members, Eileen Filler-Corn and Alfonso Lopez.

The Library of Virginia continues historic access to the records of its chief executives, begun with the records of our first governor, Patrick Henry (1776–1779), with this release of electronic materials and the availability of the paper records of the Kaine administration in the Library's reading rooms. As with the records of every modern governor, the Kaine materials were reviewed according to guidance set forth in § 2.2-126 of the Code of Virginia and the Office of the Governor Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. On the advice of the Office of the Attorney General, messages pertaining to the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shooting will not be opened until the final resolution of all litigation relating to the tragedy. Some of these records may be kept confidential longer as a result of terms of settlement agreements. More information on these processes is available on the Kaine E-mail Project website, www.virginiamemory.com/collections/kaine.

The Library expects to release e-mail from the Kaine administration in several phases by office or secretariat as soon as the Library's archival staff has finished processing the material per *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-126 and § 42.1-78. Some records may remain closed based on other provisions of the *Code*, such as the Virginia Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act and the Virginia Health Records Privacy Act.

The next release of more than 50,000 e-mails from the Policy Office, the Communications/Press Office, and the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth is planned for spring 2014.

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