



Municipal Bonds for America

www.munibondsforamerica.org



VIRGINIA

HOW RESTRICTIONS ON THE MUNICIPAL BOND EXEMPTION WOULD AFFECT THE STATE

For over 100 hundred years, municipal bonds have served as the chief engine driving infrastructure investment in America. Over 70% of today's infrastructure was built with the help of municipal bonds, helping to construct America's hospitals, roads, airports, electrical and water treatment plants and countless other facilities Americans rely on every day.

In Virginia, limiting the exemption would have dramatically negative effects. The higher costs of financing would force state and local governments to make cuts elsewhere, forcing unacceptable trade-offs. For example, if the Obama Administration's proposal to limit the exemption to only 28% of income earned had been in effect for its municipal bond offerings, Virginia would have suffered in highly tangible ways:

- To offset the higher financing costs, Fairfax County would have to make cuts totaling \$26 million, equal to 55% of its public safety spending.
- The City of Richmond would have had to find offsets equal to 81% of the city's lodging tax collections.

Limiting the municipal bond exemption is not a theoretical problem. It would have real world costs that would be felt in the lives of the citizens of [name of state] every day.

WHAT DO MUNICIPAL BONDS FINANCE IN VIRGINIA?

Tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary source of funding for nearly every type of infrastructure project. From 2003-2012 tax-exempt municipal bonds financed thousands of infrastructure projects in the State of Virginia costing more than \$57.3 Billion dollars, including:

<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Airports	\$200 million
Bridges	\$200 million
Fire Stations & Equipment	--
Acute Care Hospitals	\$7.3 billion
Mass Transportation	\$2.3 billion
Multi Family Housing	\$800 million
Primary & Secondary Education	\$7.5 billion
Public Power	\$300 million
Water & Sewer Facilities	\$5.5 billion
Affordable Homeownership	\$5.3 billion

If the proposal to limit the exemption to only 28% of income earned had been in effect, the cost of Virginia State's municipal bonds for this period would have increased approximately 10.5% costing Virginia State taxpayers an additional \$6.01 Billion.