



Office of Communications and Community Engagement

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 12, 2026

Community invited to help shape the future of Roanoke's public engagement Applications now open for Community Engagement Policy Committee

ROANOKE, VA – February 12, 2026 – The City of Roanoke and the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance invite residents to help draft the City's first-ever community engagement policy and shape how Roanoke connects with the public.

"This is an opportunity for residents to have a direct hand in building the foundation that will guide how the City communicates and engages with residents for years to come," said City Manager Valmarie Turner. "We're looking for a wide variety of voices to help create an engagement approach that truly serves everyone."

This group - part of Engagement Ready Roanoke facilitated by the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance - will be composed equally of eight residents and eight City staff members. The goal is to build on last year's listening sessions to construct a policy that will guide future engagement decisions – from standardizing public notification methods to enhancing processes for community feedback. Beginning in March, the committee will meet at least twice a month for four months to create an initial policy draft and then solicit feedback before submitting a final proposed version for City Council review. This policy will establish principles to guide Roanoke's public participation and service provision efforts.

Interested residents may apply online at <https://forms.office.com/r/BGLhB0rNAa>. The application deadline is Sunday, March 1, 2026.

Before the committee convenes, a final public listening session will be held to review what was learned from previous sessions and to facilitate continued conversation about the core values that should guide local public engagement. All residents and City staff are welcome to participate in the event, which takes place 6 p.m., February 26, 2026, at the Community Empowerment Center, 40 Douglass Ave NW.

Community members who are unable to attend can share their experiences and perspectives through an online survey. The survey will remain open through February 15, 2026, and is available at <https://viriniatech.questionpro.com/roanokeengagement>.

For more information visit <https://roanoke-va.civilspace.io/en/projects/engagement-ready-roanoke> or contact Brad Stephens at bas615@vt.edu or Molly Hunter at Molly.Hunter@roanokeva.gov.

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IF YOU GO

Community Engagement Policy Committee

WHAT:

Help shape how Roanoke City connects with the public by applying to serve on the Community Engagement Policy Committee or providing feedback.

HOW:

- Apply to serve on the Community Engagement Policy Committee at <https://forms.office.com/r/BGLhB0rNAa> by Sunday, March 1, 2026;
- Attend the listening session 6 p.m., February 26, 2026, at the Community Empowerment Center, 40 Douglass Ave NW; or
- Complete the Community Engagement Survey online at <https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/roanokeengagement> by February 15, 2026