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Media contact: Nicole Martin, President, NAACP Chesterfield County Branch 7120
naacppresident7120@gmail.com

NAACP Chesterfield Branch sets September 22 community benefits roundtable on Google data centers

Branch says a car tax cut is welcome but is not enough, points to a school bus fleet where 223 buses are 16 to 25 years old, and invites the Board of Supervisors to join Google at the table

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, Va. — The NAACP Chesterfield County Branch 7120 will convene a community benefits roundtable on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the James M. Holland Beulah Recreation Center, 6901 Hopkins Road, North Chesterfield. The branch has invited Google to the table alongside residents, faith leaders, and civic organizations from the communities nearest the company's three approved data center campuses. The branch convened the roundtable on its own initiative and will hold it whether or not every invited party attends.

The roundtable comes as the county moves to dedicate the entire local revenue stream from data centers to cutting the tax rate on cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Under [the ordinance taken up at the Board of Supervisors' August 26 meeting](#), beginning January 1, 2027 the county would apply one hundred percent of projected incremental data center revenue to lowering the vehicle rate — potentially from \$3.25 to \$1.79 per \$100 of assessed value at full build-out. The county projects more than \$47 million a year in local revenue from Google's campuses, and says it would rather put those dollars in residents' hands than expand government programs.

Branch 7120 does not oppose tax relief. The branch's position is that a rate cut and a community benefit are not the same thing, and that the county's chosen mechanism reaches residents very unevenly.

[The county has closed the door, and that is why this roundtable matters](#)

The branch credits the Board for tightening the rules. Effective [January 1, 2026](#), the county eliminated by-right data center development; any new project now requires a conditional use permit, a public hearing, and an affirmative Board vote. The Board denied one application off Old Bermuda Hundred Road, the [Board of Zoning Appeals upheld that denial in June](#), and county staff have stated publicly that no additional data centers will be supported.

County staff have also said the three approved Google campuses are [locked in and cannot be blocked](#). If the county's land use authority is spent, then a negotiated community benefits agreement is the only remaining mechanism to deliver anything to the households nearest those campuses. A rate cut is what the county can do alone. An agreement is what only Google can do.

Because the reduction applies to a vehicle's full assessed value, the dollar benefit rises with the value of the vehicle a household owns. At a \$1.46 reduction per \$100 of assessed value, a household with a \$40,000 vehicle would see roughly \$584 a year. A household with a \$6,000 vehicle would see roughly \$88. A household with no vehicle would see nothing. The same residents will also be asked on November 3 whether to [raise the county sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent to fund school construction](#).

The transportation system that carries children has no tax rate to cut

Chesterfield County Public Schools reported this month that it needs an estimated \$850 million over the next decade for maintenance across its campuses, [as reported by The Richmonder](#) — roughly \$85 million a year. The proposed sales tax, if voters approve it, would raise \$65 million to \$70 million a year, less than the need and paid by residents at the register.

According to the division's own [summer capital update presentation](#), 223 school buses are model year 2009 or earlier, between 16 and 25 years old, and only 24 are model year 2010 through 2014. The division states bus modernization requires \$8 million a year; the operating budget provided \$2.4 million.

The \$47 million a year the county proposes to dedicate entirely to reducing the tax on privately owned vehicles is more than half of what the school division says it needs annually, and nearly six times the full annual cost of modernizing the bus fleet. Fixed-route transit remains limited to a small number of GRTC routes along [Midlothian Turnpike and Route 1](#). For residents who do not drive, there is no rate to reduce.

What Google has done for schools elsewhere

In Pine Island, Minnesota — a town of a few thousand people — Google [committed \\$25 million over twenty years to the local school district](#). The only verifiable Google grant to a Chesterfield organization the branch has been able to identify is a [\\$30,000 family engagement pilot at Ettrick Elementary](#). Chesterfield is receiving a \$9 billion investment. Pine Island is receiving one data center.

The branch is not asking Google to do something new. It is asking Google to do in Chesterfield what it has already done in Minnesota, and in Arkansas, where Google funds a twelve-member community advisory council directing \$1.25 million, facilitated by an independent nonprofit rather than by Google, with a [seat held by the local NAACP branch](#).

The rate that produced the revenue

Chesterfield taxes a resident's automobile at \$3.25 per \$100 of assessed value, and [taxes computer equipment inside a data center at \\$0.24](#). The county cut that rate in 2019 and froze it under an incentive agreement that includes a grant-back to the company if the county later raises the rate. An ordinary Chesterfield business pays [the full \\$3.25 rate on its own computer equipment](#).

"We are glad residents will see relief, and we want to be clear about who that relief reaches and who it does not," said Nicole Martin, President of NAACP Chesterfield County Branch 7120. "The households closest to construction traffic, to the noise limits, and to the water draw are not the households with the most valuable cars in the driveway. Our job is to make sure the benefit reaches the people carrying the burden."

"A rate cut is not nothing, and it is not enough," said Stephen C. Miller-Pitts, Political Action Chair. "Two hundred twenty-three of our school buses are between sixteen and twenty-five years old. The children on those buses do not have a tax rate to cut. That gap is why we are convening this roundtable."

Google has accepted the branch's invitation and confirmed the date, and the company has indicated a cross-functional delegation is expected. The branch is also extending a public invitation to the Board of Supervisors, to Chesterfield County Public Schools, and to community stakeholders across the county.

"Google agreed to sit down with us. Our hope is that the Board of Supervisors will do the same," Miller-Pitts said. "This is not a complaint filed from the outside. It is an invitation, and there is a chair at the table for every one of them."

What the branch is asking for

The branch is asking Google to negotiate a written community benefits agreement covering, at minimum:

- Local hiring and apprenticeship targets for construction and permanent operations, with prevailing wage
- Annual public disclosure of water and energy consumption at each campus
- Noise standards matching what the company has committed to elsewhere. Chesterfield proffered a nighttime limit of 65 decibels at residential boundaries; Google accepted 50 decibels at night at Pine Island, and Virginia's legislative auditors found residents file complaints in the 40 to 59 decibel range
- A community benefit fund governed by a board with a community majority
- Independent verification and enforceable clawbacks
- A standing community advisory body with an independent facilitator

The framework follows the NAACP's national data center community benefits agreement template. Following the September 22 roundtable, the branch will convene a working group to carry the agenda into negotiation.

Sources

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About NAACP Chesterfield County Branch 7120

Branch 7120 is the Chesterfield County unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, working on civil rights, economic opportunity, education, environmental justice, and civic participation across Chesterfield County. The branch is nonpartisan and does not endorse candidates for public office.

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