# Virginia Opportunity Zones

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# Agenda

- What is the Opportunity Zone Program?
- State Role
- What do we know and where does the program currently stand?
- Strategies for Local Governments
- Additional Information
- Q&A

# Opportunity Zones

- Enacted in Federal Tax and Jobs Act (2017)
- Another tool in toolbox for investment and revitalization in your community



# **Opportunity Zones**

- Taxpayers can get capital gains tax deferral for making timely investments in Opportunity Funds and Opportunity Zone properties
  - Can be tangible and intangible property
- Opportunity Fund vehicle could reduce transactional friction and connect investors to overlooked, but credit-worthy, investment opportunities
- Equity investments in growth-stage businesses and real property



#### **Overview of Structure**

Private Capital: Investment income subject to capital

~ \$6 trillion market

gains tax

**Investment Vehicle: Opportunity Fund** 

\*Investments must occur within Opportunity Zones - distressed census tracts (same basis as NMTC QCTs) or contiguous tracts. Ineligible investments in "sin businesses" analogous to NMTC program apply.

#### **Eligible Investments\***

Interest in a domestic partnership

Stock in a domestic corporation

Tangible property used in a trade or business of the Fund (substantial improvement)



## Tax Benefits

- Benefits when capital is invested in a Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund
  - Temporary Tax Deferral
    - Recognized at exit of fund or December 31, 2026, whichever is earlier
  - Step up in basis
    - 5 year = 10% reduction in tax liability of original capital gain
    - 7 year= 15% reduction in tax liability of original capital gain
  - 10 year holding period: permanent exclusion of tax on any gains made in the fund

## Tax Benefits

- Do not need to invest all of capital gain
- Have 180 days to recognize gain and contribute in a Qualified Opportunity Fund
- December 31, 2026: deferral period ends and deadline for investing in an OZ fund
- If a taxpayer's investment in an Opportunity Fund decreases in value during the deferral period, the amount of gain a taxpayer is required to recognize decreases proportionately

#### SAMPLE INVESTMENT

#### **OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

#### **JANUARY 2, 2019**



Taxpayer receives \$1M in capital gains generated from a sale

JUNE 30, 2019

Taxpayer has 180 days to contribute capital gains into a Qualified OZ Fund The QOF invests the \$1M in Qualified OZ Property



JUNE 20, 2023



Basis: 0K to 100K Taxpayer basis increases by 10%. Basis is considered to start at zero when funds are first invested

JUNE 30, 2025

Taxpayer basis increases to 15%

Basis: 100K to 150K



**DECEMBER 31, 2026** 



850K taxed

Deferral period ends. Taxpayer pays 85% in basis on OZ fund. Basis then increases to \$1M

JUNE 30, 2028

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Basis is Fair Market Value. Taxpayer sells investment for \$3M. Taxpayer does not owe tax on appreciation of investment.

# Opportunity Zone Funds

- Taxpayer can self certify on tax return OZ fund
- Fund can be set up as an LLC or partnership
- Must hold 90% of assets in QOZ property



# Opportunity Zone Business Property or Business

- Opportunity Zones can be used for a variety of uses
  - Housing
  - Commercial Real Estate and Renovation
  - Opening new business in an OZ
  - Expansion of existing business in an OZ or large expansion of a business already in an OZ

## Other Incentives

- Can be layered with other incentives
  - LIHTC
  - Enterprise Zones
  - Historic Tax Credit

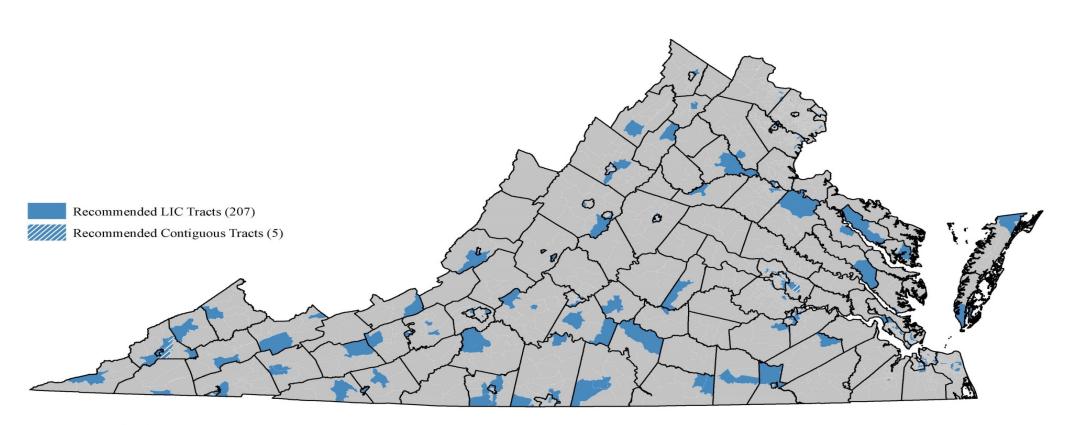


# Virginia OZs

- The State's role in the program was to nominate low income census tracts to be designated as Opportunity Zones
- Virginia nominated 212 out of 901 low income census tracts for OZ designation
- Approved & Certified by U.S. Treasury in May
- This represents the maximum number of low income census tracts that could be nominated in Virginia

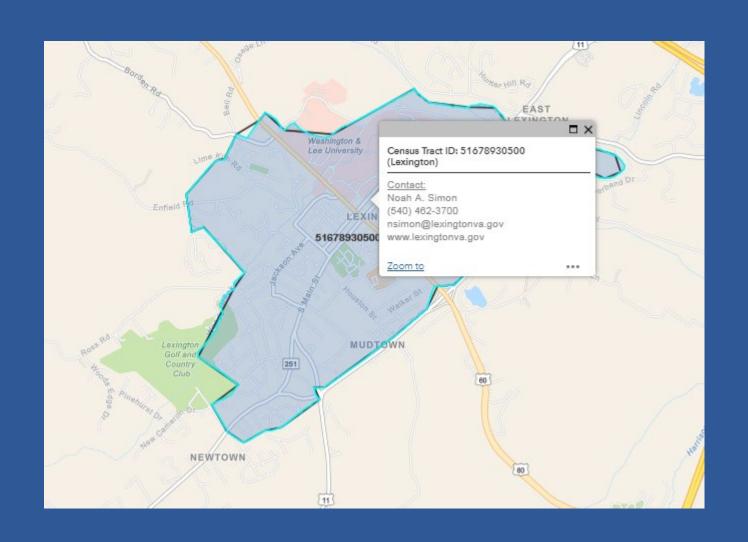


# Virginia Qualified Opportunity Zones





# Current State Initiatives



## **Current State Efforts**

- Connecting investors, local governments and developers
- Clearinghouse

#### Considerations

- Our understanding is that Virginia State capital gains tax liability is based on your federal capital gains liability
- Many OZs overlap with Enterprise Zones and Historic Regions registered with DHR
- Look at targeted local incentives

### Where are we now?

- Draft regulations posted on Friday October 19, 2018 for a 60 day comment period
- 3 documents released
  - IRS Tax Form (draft)
  - Proposed regulations
  - Special rules for capital gains invested in OZ



# Strategies and Tips for Local Governments

- Identify target businesses and properties
- Create a marketing prospectus for investors
  - Provide market data and information
    - Workforce data, demographics, etc
  - Existing properties
  - Pipeline of potential projects
  - Highlight investable deals
  - Tell your local story



# Strategies and Tips for Local Governments

- Identify and meet with potential investors
  - High net worth individuals, Community foundations
- Have an Opportunity Zone Day
  - Tour of potential projects
- Identify other incentives to layer on projects that are in OZs



# Strategies and Tips for Local Governments

- Update capital improvement Plan, Zoning ordinances, etc
  - Direct resources to priority projects
  - Zoning
    - Inclusionary zoning to prevent negative effects of gentrification
- Get engaged with your community and engage investors with the community

### Additional Information

- DHCD Opportunity Zones
- CDFI OZ Resources
- IRS OZ FAQ
- Economic Innovation Group
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Opportunity 360 Tool

## Questions?

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