

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## ***Virginia Department of General Services***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **RENOVATION OF VIRGINIA'S STATE CAPITOL EXTENDED TO 2007 ~ Unexpected Discoveries Contribute to New Renovation Schedule ~**

**RICHMOND** – To ensure the Virginia State Capitol is ready to fulfill the needs of legislators and the general public the renovation and construction schedule has been extended. The reconvened session, slated for April 4, 2007, will mark the opening of the building and be the first session held in the newly renovated Capitol.

“We had an aggressive renovation and building schedule to begin with,” said Richard F. Sliwoski, P.E., Director of the Department of General Services. “Quality is paramount. There are many variables that have contributed to extending our renovation schedule and we won’t rush this historic project, sacrificing quality, just to meet a date. We are fortunate to have an excellent team of contractors that are committed to doing the job right the first time.”

Designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this is the first major renovation to the Capitol since the addition of the wings and the steps on the South Portico in 1904 - 1906. Unexpected discoveries, extensive testing of historic materials, research to ensure historic accuracy of the renovation, specialized preservation techniques to portions of the building, and the general challenges of updating a building nearly 220 years old have all contributed to the extended renovation and construction schedule.

The original plan was to repaint the Jeffersonian millwork (woodwork) inside the Rotunda area. Through the work of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, a grant was obtained allowing the accurate documentation, cataloguing, and appropriate preservation of this woodwork, which has taken longer than expected. During renovation and construction operations, some areas of the building were discovered to be more deteriorated than projected. As a result, these areas are in the process of being carefully reconstructed in order to preserve the historic and structural integrity of the building. Also, space constraints have presented design challenges for the introduction of modern building systems into this historic structure. As installation of the modern building systems progressed, it was necessary to redesign specific areas to achieve functionality.

With the renovation and construction schedule extended, the 2007 General Assembly session will be held in the Patrick Henry Building as it was in 2006. The newly renovated Capitol will serve as the location for the General Assembly’s reconvened session. Upon completion in April 2007, the renovated Capitol will have new mechanical and electrical systems; a new roof, elevators, stairwells, and legislative meeting space; full accessibility for the disabled; the original 1908 color schemes and décor in the legislative chambers and Rotunda; restored original Jeffersonian millwork; and a 27,000 square foot underground extension providing additional work space, a new secure visitor entrance at Tenth and Bank Streets, and a visitor center with educational and museum exhibits.

To see photographs of the renovation and construction, view video clips, and to learn more about the entire Capitol Renovation and Extension Project go to [www.VirginiaCapitol.gov](http://www.VirginiaCapitol.gov).

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