

The logo for NOVA RISE features a stylized graphic on the left consisting of three upward-pointing chevrons in shades of teal and dark blue. To the right of this graphic, the word "NOVA" is written in a large, bold, teal sans-serif font, and the word "RISE" is written below it in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font.

NOVA RISE

Thursday, April 16, 2026
8:00 - 11:30 am

Valo Park Auditorium
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

NOVA RISE is the definitive [NOVA Roadmap](#) vision and strategy exchange — uniting business leaders and investors with the innovators shaping the future of our regional economy.

This inaugural summit features two panels of experts on topics related to Roadmap innovation initiatives. The event is capped with a fireside chat featuring influential executives, followed by a private VIP Luncheon.



Program Schedule

8:00 - 8:50 am

Registration and Networking

8:50 - 8:55 am

Welcome

8:55 - 9:00 am

Presenting Sponsor Remarks

9:00 - 9:05 am

Panel Introduction

9:05 - 9:45 am

Panel Discussion:

The Business Case for Housing Affordability

9:45 - 10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 - 10:05 am

Sponsor Remarks

10:05 - 10:45 am

Panel Discussion:

Powering Northern Virginia's Digital Economy

10:45 - 11:00 am

Networking Break

11:00 - 11:05 am

Sponsor Remarks

11:05 - 11:30 am

Fireside Chat:

Leading the Next Chapter of Northern Virginia's Economy

11:30 am

Closing Remarks

2026 NOVA RISE Sponsors

PRESENTING SPONSOR



**Washington
Gas**

A WGL Company

FIRESIDE CHAT SPONSOR



VIP LUNCHEON SPONSOR



INSIGHTS SPONSORS



Interested in Sponsoring Future Events? Contact NVC Investor Relations Manager
Jocelyn Park (JPark@NVCbusiness.org)



Panel Overview

Panel #1: The Business Case for Housing Affordability

This panel will feature developers, planners, and business leaders who will examine what is actually slowing housing production in Northern Virginia, from permitting delays to community opposition. This conversation will explore solutions that are proving effective in other fast-growing regions, and focus on actions our business community can take to increase Northern Virginia's housing supply so we can continue to attract and retain the talent that supports our economy.

Panel #2: Powering Northern Virginia's Digital Economy

Leaders from the energy, technology, and infrastructure sectors will examine how we balance the growing demand for power with the need for resilient, future-ready energy infrastructure. Join us as we discuss the strategies required to sustain Northern Virginia's innovation-driven growth while building the infrastructure a world-class digital economy demands.

Fireside Chat:

Leading the Next Chapter of Northern Virginia's Economy

This fireside chat features a leading voice in business and policy to examine Northern Virginia's economic competitiveness and the strategic leadership required to sustain our momentum. The discussion will focus on how cross-sector collaboration and coalition building can translate the vision of the NOVA Roadmap into tangible solutions that strengthen the region's long-term growth and ensure our competitive edge.



**NOT AN
NVC MEMBER?**

JOIN TODAY!

MBREXPERIENCE@NVCBUSINESS.ORG

JOIN A NETWORK OF OVER 350 MEMBER COMPANIES

**NVC is a trusted convener,
where dialogue meets action.**

VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS



Panel Information

The Business Case for Housing Affordability

The high cost of living in our region impacts every employer, hampering their ability to attract and retain a high-quality workforce.



Dan Alban
Strategic Advisory & Co-Founder
YIMBYs of NOVA

Dan Alban serves on the national board of directors of YIMBY Law, a nonprofit that aims to end the housing shortage by serving as the legal arm of the pro-housing movement. In 2021, Dan co-founded the YIMBYs of Northern Virginia with several local leaders to help advocate for more housing options and more affordable housing where he lives.



Thomas Fleetwood
Director
Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development
Under **Thomas Fleetwood's** leadership, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and HCD have delivered a number of landmark affordable housing projects, including the Residences at the Government Center and The Fallstead at Lewinsville. He was awarded the A. Heath Onthank Award in 2012, the Conrad Egan Excellence Award for Service in 2014, and the Katherine K. Hanley Award for Public Service in 2022.



Evan Goldman
Executive Vice President, Land Acquisition and Development
EYA, LLC
Evan Goldman brings a decade of mixed-use and multi-family experience to the EYA development team. Prior to joining EYA, he was Vice President of Development at Federal Realty Investment Trust, where he was primarily responsible for managing the development of Pike & Rose. In 2012, Evan received the Livable Communities Leadership Award from the Washington, DC-based Coalition for Smarter Growth.



Panel Moderator: Carmen Romero
President & Chief Executive Officer
True Ground Housing Partners
Carmen Romero manages a \$1 billion portfolio of over 2,800 affordable units. Since 2021, she has led the organization through a strategic rebranding, secured a "Top 50 Affordable Developer" ranking, and is currently overseeing the delivery of over 1,100 units across the D.C. metropolitan region.



REGISTER TODAY! ➔

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:30 - 10:30 am | Army Navy Country Club



Panel Information

Powering Northern Virginia's Regional Economy

As our ecosystem of AI, cloud, and advanced technology companies rapidly grows, the demand for energy infrastructure is reaching a critical inflection point.



Vardahn Chaudhry

Senior Vice President, Asset Management
American Real Estate Partners

Vardahn Chaudhry leads the strategy, operations, and financial performance for PowerHouse, the data center platform for American Real Estate Partners. With over 12 years of experience in digital infrastructure and smart city investments, Vardahn previously served as Vice President of Investments at JBG SMITH, where he oversaw an \$85 million digital infrastructure and venture capital investment portfolio.



Kevin Gundersen

Head of Public Affairs
Digital Realty

As the Head of Public Affairs at Digital Realty, **Kevin Gundersen** leads engagement with government, media, and trade associations on matters impacting Digital Realty's business interests. He is based in Washington, D.C. From 2016 to 2025, Kevin was Vice President of Global Communications and Government Affairs at Huntsman Corporation (NYSE: HUN). He also served as an Intelligence Officer (Lieutenant) in the United States Navy Reserve.



Bill Murray

Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Communications
Dominion Energy

Bill Murray is responsible for federal, state, and local government relations. He serves on multiple boards, such as the Faison Center and Youth for Tomorrow. He previously served as a management analyst at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a senior staff member for the Virginia General Assembly, and as Vice President of Policy at the Virginia Hospital Association.



Brandon Todd

Vice President, Government Affairs, Policy, & Advocacy
Washington Gas

Brandon Todd works in close collaboration with senior leadership to support the development and management of public policy positions. He provides guidance on the economic and social implications of federal and state energy and environmental policies that affect WGL. Brandon previously served six years on the Council of the District of Columbia, representing Ward 4, and is an experienced community leader and advocate.



Panel Moderator: Mark Looney

Partner
Cooley LLP

Mark Looney represents property owners and national, regional and local developers in all aspects of the land planning, zoning and development process. He is recognized as one of the region's preeminent land use/zoning attorneys by Chambers USA, and has also been recognized in Best Lawyers in America, *Virginia Business's* Legal Elite, and The Legal 500 US for Real Estate: Land use/zoning.

Fireside Chat Information

Leading the Next Chapter of Northern Virginia's Economy

As the region faces mounting pressures — from workforce transitions and affordability challenges to intensifying national competition — the business community must take a definitive role in shaping our regional trajectory.



Special Guest Speaker:

Todd Stottlemyer

Chief Executive Officer

Acentra Health

Todd Stottlemyer is the CEO and a member of the board of directors at Acentra Health. He previously served in multiple executive leadership roles at Inova Health, including CEO of the Inova Center for Personalized Health. In that role, he was responsible for the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, the Inova Translational Medicine Institute, and Inova's clinical research programs.



Moderated By:

Julie Coons

President & Chief Executive Officer

NVC

Julie Coons has nearly 25 years in nonprofit management and private-sector experience. She champions economic growth, transformative public policy, and regional collaboration. She's renowned for revitalizing organizations like the Electronic Retailing Association and the Maryland Tech Council, and drives impact across the region through her board and advisory work.

NVC Pinkston.

2026 BUSINESS LEADER SURVEY

SIGN UP FOR Q2
SURVEY UPDATES

NVCbusiness.org/business-leader-survey/

VIEW THE Q1
SURVEY REPORT



NOVA ROADMAP INVESTORS



CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE



VISIONARY



TRAILBLAZER



ADVOCATE

HUPSIDE
THE MITRE CORPORATION