

C O U N T Y C O U N C I L
O F
H O W A R D C O U N T Y , M A R Y L A N D

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No.1
January 5, 2026

HOWARD COUNTY TO WIT:

The Chair called the legislative session to order at 7:01 p.m.

Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Member Deb Jung, and Council Member David Yungmann were present. Council Member Liz Walsh was absent.

Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jen Sager, Legislative Coordinator; James Almon, Senior Administrative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant were also present.

APPROVE JOURNAL

The Chair moved to approve the Journal of:

Legislative Session – December 1, 2025

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve the Journal was: Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Journal passed.

APPROVE MINUTES

The Chair moved to approve the Minutes of:

Special Meeting to Hold Closed Session – December 1, 2025
Special Meeting and Closed Session – December 22, 2025

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve the Minutes was: Yea:
Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Minutes passed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Appointments

CR1-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Juan Rafael Albertorio-Diaz – La Alianza Latina Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Juan Rafael Albertorio-Diaz to the La Alianza Latina Commission

CR2-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Shuchi Vera – Recreation and Parks Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Shuchi Vera to the Recreation and Parks Board

CR3-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Chuck Chandler - Multimodal Transportation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Chuck Chandler to the Multimodal Transportation Board

CR4-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Jeremy Dommu - Multimodal Transportation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jeremy Dommu to the Multimodal Transportation Board

CR5-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- John Mobley - Board of Electrical Examiners

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of John Mobley to the Board of Electrical Examiners

CR6-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- James R. Bartlett – Historic Preservation Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of James R. Bartlett to the Historic Preservation Commission

CR7-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Ricky Snell – Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ricky Snell to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

CR8-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Juan Valdez – Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Juan Valdez to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Reappointments

CR9-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Paul Casey – Housing Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Paul Casey to the Housing Commission

CR10-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Kevin Hill – Board of Electrical Examiners

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Kevin Hill to the Board of Electrical Examiners

CR11-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Paul Rivers – Police Accountability Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Paul Rivers to the Police Accountability Board

CR12-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Nellie Hutt – Police Accountability Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Nellie Hutt, Esquire, to the Police Accountability Board as a member and as Chairperson

CR13-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Renee Bitner – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Renee Bitner to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

CR14-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Michelle Kilkenny – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Michelle Kilkenny to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

CR15-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Michelle Henry – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Michelle Henry to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

CR16-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment - Kelly Palich, M.A. CIG – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Kelly Palich, M.A. CIG, to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

CR17-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Kelly Proctor – Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Kelly Proctor to the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board

CR18-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Victoria A. Myles – Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Victoria A. Myles to the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Financial

TAO1-FY2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Transferring \$7,600,000 – E1036 – Oakland Mills Middle School Addition and Renovation

Title: AN ACT transferring \$7,600,000 from various School System capital projects to capital project E1036, Oakland Mills Middle School Addition and Renovation, in order to address a budget shortfall on that project

CB1-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Authorizing and empowering – bonds - \$7,600,000

Title: AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$7,600,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds therefor, to be used to pay costs of a capital project, more particularly described in the County's Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds; authorizing the County to issue bond and grant anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

CB2-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Amendments - Property Tax Credit for Credit for Disabled Law Enforcement Officers or Rescue Workers or Surviving Spouses of Fallen Law Enforcement Officers or Rescue Workers

Title: AN ACT amending the Property Tax Credit for Credit for disabled law enforcement officers or rescue workers or surviving spouses of fallen law enforcement officers or rescue workers in order to align with State law; defining certain terms; amending certain definitions; amending the number of years of the disability or death that applies to the eligibility of a surviving spouse or cohabitant; making certain technical changes; and generally relating to property tax credits

General

CB3-2026 (ZRA 218) - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: ZRA 218 - Accessory Dwelling Units- Allowed by right in certain zoning districts, under certain conditions

Title: AN ACT amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to allow accessory dwelling units in Howard County under certain conditions; to define certain terms; to allow two-family dwellings as a matter of right in the RC, RR, R-ED, R-20 and R-12 Zoning Districts under certain conditions; to substitute accessory dwelling unit for accessory apartment and to allow accessory dwelling units as accessory uses in the R-H-ED, R-A-15, R-APT, R-MH, R-VH, HO, HC, TOD, CAC and TNC Zoning Districts, under certain conditions; to substitute accessory dwelling units for temporary accessory

family dwellings in certain zoning districts; to make certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the Howard County Zoning Regulations

CB4-2026 (ZRA 219) - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: ZRA 219 - Zoning Regulation Amendment 219 – Activity Centers – TOD or TNC Zoning Districts – Age-Restricted Adult Housing

Title: AN ACT amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to implement the General Plan's recommendations for housing in activity centers, including defining activity center; providing that certain types of development projects in the TOD or TNC zoning districts shall provide more than one housing type; and adding regulations for age-restricted adult housing in the TOD zoning district; and generally relating to the Howard County Zoning Regulations

CR19-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting comprehensive revision – Landscape Manual

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 16.124 of the Howard County Code, adopting a comprehensive revision of the Howard County Landscape Manual as the technical manual used to prepare landscape plans; and generally relating to landscaping in Howard County

CR20-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Public Sewer and Utility Easement Termination –Washington Boulevard – 0.658 acres (28,650 square feet)

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code declaring that a 30-foot Public Sewer and Utility Easement containing approximately 28,650 square feet or 0.658 acres is no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to terminate the easement and convey the property interest to the fee simple owner, James Edward Roberts and Tricia B. Roberts; waiving the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code in order to terminate the easement and convey the property interest; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to terminate the easement and convey the property if he finds that the easements may have a public use

CR21-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Conveyance to Savage Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. - Approximately 1.063 Acres – Corridor Road, Savage, Maryland

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code declaring that 1.063 acres of land owned by Howard County, Maryland located on Corridor Road in Savage, Maryland is no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to convey the property to the Savage Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.; waiving the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code in order to convey the property; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to convey the property if he finds that it may have a further public use

CR22-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Private Road Easement and Use in Common Easement Termination - College Avenue, Ellicott City, Maryland

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code declaring that a private road easement and use in common easement serving County property

located on College Avenue in Ellicott City are no longer needed for a public purpose and authorizing the County Executive to waive the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code in order to terminate and quitclaim the County's interest, if any, in and to a private road easement and a use in common access easement to the owners of the adjacent properties: Ingrid Wilson and Michael Joseph Coffey; Patricia Driscoll and John Eric Morris; and Diane E. Caruso, the Personal Representative of the Estate of Patricia E. Sadler; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to quitclaim the private road easement and the use in common access easement if he finds that the private road easement and use in common easement may have a further public use

CB5-2026 - Introduced by David Yungmann

Short Title: Boards and Commissions – Appointee Biographical Information– Posting on County Government Website

Title: AN ACT requiring the resumes or other biographical information of all appointments to a Howard County Board or Commission, be posted on the County government website; and generally relating to Boards and Commissions

CB6-2026 - Introduced by David Yungmann

Short Title: Howard County Ethics Commission – Members Service on Other Boards and Commissions – Prohibition

Title: AN ACT prohibiting members of the Howard County Ethics Commission from serving on other Howard County Boards or Commissions while serving as a current member of the Howard County Ethics Commission; and generally relating to the Howard County Ethics Commission

CB7-2026 - Introduced by Opel Jones - Co-sponsor(s) Christiana Rigby, David Yungmann

Short Title: Howard County Boards and Commissions - Interference – Prohibition

Title: AN ACT prohibiting the County Council, individual Councilmembers, and County Council staff from hindering, obstructing, or disrupting the deliberations and decisions of certain County Board or Commission; and generally relating to Howard County Boards and Commissions

CB8-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the Compensation Review Commission

Short Title: Howard County Council – December 2026 to December 2030 Term – Compensation

Title: AN ACT to set the annual compensation of the members of the Howard County Council for the term beginning in December 2026

CB9-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the Compensation Review Commission

Short Title: Howard County Executive – December 2026 to December 2030 Term – Salary

Title: AN ACT to set the annual salary of the Howard County Executive for the term beginning in December 2026

CB10-2026 - Introduced by Liz Walsh

Short Title: Excess Surplus Revenue- Modification

Title: AN ACT To modify the restriction on the use of excess surplus revenue pursuant to Section 615B of the Howard County Charter in order to use excess surplus revenue from prior years to fund deferred school maintenance needs in the Fiscal Year 2028 budget; and generally relating to excess surplus revenue

CR23-2026 - Introduced by Christiana Rigby

Short Title: Charter Amendment – Gender Neutrality

Title: A RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Howard County Charter to make the language of the Charter gender neutral; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution

CR24-2026 - Introduced by Christiana Rigby

Short Title: Charter Amendment – Howard County Board of Appeals

Title: A RESOLUTION to amend the Howard County Charter to increase the number of members of the Howard County Board of Appeals from five to seven members; update the political party affiliation distribution of Board members; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution

CR25-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the Howard County Council

Short Title: Additional Legislative Sessions – Specified Dates

Title: A RESOLUTION calling the County Council of Howard County, Maryland into legislative session on specified dates

FINAL CONSIDERATION

Tabled

Appointments

CR147-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointing Khadeja Farahmand, to the Commission for Women.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Khadeja Farahmand, to the Commission for Women.

CR176-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment - Nicole Harris – Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Nicole Harris to the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities

CR201-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Stephanie Gonzalez - Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Stephanie Gonzalez to the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council

CR203-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Laura Crovo - Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Laura Crovo to the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council

CR211-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Valoria Walker – Commission on Aging

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Valoria Walker to the Commission on Aging

OTHER BUSINESS

May Budget Amendment Prefile Change - Motion by Council to Suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) Consideration of bills – Amendments

Chair moved to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the May Budget Amendment Prefile from Monday, May 18, 2026, at 2 pm to Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 12 pm.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the May Budget Amendment Prefile from Monday, May 18, 2026, at 2 pm to Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 12 pm was Yea: Council Members: Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann

The motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the May Budget Amendment Prefile from Monday, May 18, 2026, at 2 pm to Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 12 pm passed.

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### **July Amendment Prefile Change - Motion by Council to Suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) Agenda – Additions to Agenda**

Chair moved to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the July Amendment Prefile from Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 2 pm.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the July Amendment Prefile from Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 2 pm was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann.

The motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the July Amendment Prefile from Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 2 pm passed.

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**January Legislative Prefile Change - Motion by Council to Suspend Rule 1.002(c)(2) Agenda – Additions to Agenda**

Chair moved to suspend Rule 1.002(c)(1) to change the January 2027 Legislative Prefile from Thursday, December 24, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 23, 2026, at 2 pm.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to suspend Rule 1.002(c)(1) to change the January 2027 Legislative Prefile from Thursday, December 24, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 23, 2026, at 2 pm was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann.

The motion to suspend Rule 1.002(c)(1) to change the January 2027 Legislative Prefile from Thursday, December 24, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 23, 2026, at 2 pm passed.

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**January Amendment Prefile Change - Motion by Council to Suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) Consideration of bills – Amendments**

Chair moved suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the January 2027 Amendment Prefile from Thursday, December 31, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 30, 2026, at 2 pm.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the January 2027 Amendment Prefile from Thursday, December 31, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 30, 2026, at 2 pm was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann.

The motion to suspend Rule 1.007(b)(1) to change the January 2027 Amendment Prefile from Thursday, December 31, 2026, at 2 pm to Wednesday, December 30, 2026, at 2 pm passed.

**Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.**