



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3
Liz Walsh
District 1
Deb Jung
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

CIP and Operating Budget Work Session #1
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)
Video Streamed at cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Chair Jones opened the meeting at: 10:06 a.m.

Council members present: Chair Opel Jones, Vice-Chair Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Yusef Ibrahim, Deputy Council Administrator; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst; Owen Kahn, Fiscal Manager; Melinda Massey, Fiscal Manager; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant.

Administration staff: Noted below.

Agenda

Revenue Overview

Budget Director Holly Sun and representatives of the Budget Office provided the Council with a presentation of Fiscal Year 2027 Revenues Overview. Director Sun discussed the proposed General Fund budget, revenue adjustments from original projections, and the increase in income tax revenue. There was general discussion between the Council and the representatives of the Budget Office on the proposed budget, the Spending Affordability Committee recommendations, and the risks in future years concerning sustainable revenue growth. The Council asked questions regarding the sustainability of income growth revenue and concerns about slower general revenue growth in future years.

Board of Education (HCPSS)

Superintendent Bill Barnes joined by Howard County Public School Staff (HCPSS) and members of the Howard County Board of Education, provided opening remarks to the Council. Superintendent Barnes discussed Federal and State mandates, the development of

a strategic plan, and the increasing number of Howard County students who receive special education and are bilingual. There was then general discussion between the Council and the HCPSS on the proposed HCPSS budget, projections HCPSS uses to project future budget needs and priorities, and State aid. There was also a discussion concerning the State's "Education Blueprint" program and HCPSS efforts to comply with that program. The HCPSS Capital Budget was also discussed with the Council asking questions regarding funds being appropriated for deferred maintenance projects and maximizing State funds to assist paying for those projects.. The Council also asked questions about teacher salaries and the total number of employees and Full Time Equivalent employees.

Howard Community College

Representatives from the Howard Community College presented their Fiscal Year 2027 Budget, discussed enrollment trends, and the increased demand for workforce training. The Council asked several questions regarding the status of capital projects, state aid formulas and the services that are handled by employees and those services performed by outside contractors. The Council also asked about the status of ongoing collective bargaining negotiations with the unionized employees of the college.

Howard County Library System

Representatives of the Howard County Library System (HCLS) presented their proposed budget to the Council. The Council asked questions regarding HCLS Central Branch – Capital project L0020. There was a general discussion about the proposed plans and timeline for the Central Branch Library project as well as the proposed cost of the project. There was also a general discussion about maintenance issues with at the Savage Branch Library location and HCLS efforts to mitigate those issues.

State's Attorney

State's Attorney Rich Gibson and representatives from the Howard County State's Attorney's Office presented their Fiscal Year 2027 Budget request to the Council. There was general discussion regarding the County's body worn camera program and the costs and labor associated with that program.

Board of Elections

Guy Mickley the Director of the Board of Elections appeared before the Council. Mr. Mickley updated the Council on the Board's efforts to administer the upcoming 2026 Gubernatorial Election. The Council asked questions regarding unfunded mandate requirements from the Federal and State Governments. Mr. Mickley replied that unfunded mandates constitute a majority of the Board of Election's budget. There was also

discussion about the Board moving into a consolidated office space in the summer of 2027 and new equipment for the 2028 Presidential Election cycle.

Inspector General's Office

Kelly Madigan provided a budget presentation to the Council. Ms. Madigan spoke on her efforts to build up the Office of Inspector General including the hiring process for staff and locating an appropriate office space. The Council asked questions regarding a proposed vehicle which Ms. Madigan advised was to allow her and other investigators to serve subpoenas and conduct investigations. The Council also asked about the ability of the Inspector General to access data and documents necessary for investigations.

Vice Chair Rigby adjourned the meeting at: 4:27 pm,

Council requested follow up:

Revenue

- *Please provide any information, documentation, or projections providing for the effect on the County Budget if there is 3-4% revenue growth.*
- *Please provide any modeling or documentation regarding if the County is meeting its Housing Goals provided for in "HoCo By Design".*
- *Please provide the consultant report that was provided to the Department of Planning and Zoning during the drafting of "HoCo By Design".*
- *Please provide any information or documentation providing for how much revenue the County would receive if the County met the 1600 new housing units goal. –*
- *For the tax revenue growth of commercial properties, are the assessments on the properties themselves not growing or is the assessable commercial tax base not growing?*

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)

- *Does HCPSS conduct long-term projections of revenue growth and are there any projections of the HCPSS Budget if the County Budget revenue only grows at 3-4%?*
- *Capital Budget – Facilitates Deferred Maintenance Data and Council Bill 20-2025.*
 - o *\$30 million has been set aside for facilities deferred maintenance. \$38 million, however, should be set aside for deferred maintenance under Council*

Bill 20-2025. What is the cause in the delta between the \$38 billion and the \$30 million actually set aside?

- *How much money or what percentage of State capital funds does HCPSS anticipate will go towards the 192 million in deferred maintenance costs?*
- *Please provide a breakdown of all HCPSS employees that are separate from Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees.*
- *Please provide any documentation providing for HCPSS and the County's efforts to maximize State Matching funds.*

Howard Community College

- *Please provide The Howard County Community College Budget book that was provided to the Council in past years.*
- *Please provide a breakdown of the work that is being performed in house and the work that is being contracted out.*
- *Please provide a breakdown of the \$32 million in the fund balance of the Howard Community College Budget.*
- *How many administrative positions have been added over the past 5 years and what is the total cost of those administrative positions?*
- *What is the average compensation or newly hired faculty members within the past year?*
- *Please provide a line-item for the legal costs in the budget and a breakdown of those costs.*

Howard County Library System

- *Please provide information regarding revenue backed bonds for paid parking and special event revenue for the proposed parking garage at the proposed Central Columbia Lakefront Library location*
- ***Savage Library Branch***
 - o *Please provide documentation showing that the library has received the appropriate monitors for air and sewage issues and the placement of those monitors.*

Board of Elections

- *What is the total cost of the unfunded mandates for the past five years?*

4/29/2026 CIP & Operating Work Session Attendee List:

Revenue Overview

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo Yousuf Ahmad
Paul McIntyre

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price
John Vu

Howard County Board of Education

Jennifer Mallo
Meg Ricks
Dr. Linfeng Chen
Andrea Chamblee
Jackie McCoy
Jolene Mosley
Antonia Watts
April Harrison, BOE Administrator

Howard County Public School System

Bill Barnes, Superintendent
Dr. Karalee Turner-Little, Deputy Superintendent
Darin Conforti, Director Budget
Brian Hull, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Robinson, Chief Schools Officer
Dr. Jennifer Webster, Chief Academic Officer
Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Caroline Walker, Chief Equity Innovation Officer
Jerilyn Johnson, HCPSS Administrator

Howard Community College

Dr. Daria Willis
AJ Fischer
Jon Iuzzini
Tyrone Boyd
Melissa Prochaska
Stephanie Wall

Zoe Irvin
Jarrett Carter
Minah Woo
Mike Popp
Jane-Ellen Miller

Howard County Library System

Tonya Aikens
Angela Brade
Dorna Anderson
Marcy Leonard
Christie Lassen

Council Office

Michelle Harrod
Janice McGregor

State's Attorney

Richard Gibson
Christopher Sandman
Vicki Rand

Sheriff's Office

Marcus Harris
Mark Verderaime
Troy Rodgers

Board of Elections

Guy Mickley

Inspector General

Kelly Madigan

Visit the Council's website (cc.howardcountymd.gov) to view legislation, send written testimony, and sign-up electronically to testify at public hearings.

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001.