

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 10
July 29, 2026

HOWARD COUNTY TO WIT:

The Chair called the legislative session to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jen Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Nick Rinehart, Senior Administrative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Trish Hammond, Administrative Assistant were also present.

APPROVE JOURNAL

The Chair moved to approve the Journal of:

Legislative Session – July 6, 2026

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, Walsh, and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Journal passed.

APPROVE MINUTES

The Chair moved to approve the Minutes of:

Monthly Meeting – July 13, 2026
Legislative Public Hearing – July 20, 2026
Legislative Work Session – July 27, 2026

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, and Rigby. Abstain: Council Member Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Minutes passed.

FINAL CONSIDERATION

Appointments

CR108-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Kelsey E. Ritter - Environmental Sustainability Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kelsey E. Ritter to the Environmental Sustainability Board

CR109-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Levita Y. Lowe, MPA, PMP- Human Rights Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Levita Y. Lowe, MPA, PMP to the Human Rights Commission

CR110-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Faith Matranga- Human Rights Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Faith Matranga to the Human Rights Commission

CR111-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Brent K. Jones– Commission on Disabilities

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Brent K. Jones to the Commission on Disabilities

CR112-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Omar J. Jones IV – Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Omar J. Jones IV to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

CR113-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Katharine T. Hemady – Board of Social Services

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Katharine T. Hemady to the Board of Social Services

Reappointments

CR114-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Antonia B. Watts – Board of Library Trustees

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Antonia B. Watts to the Board of Library Trustees

CR115-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Mason Godsey – Planning Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Mason Godsey to the Planning Board
Chair moved to approve Council Resolutions 100 through 103-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

CR116-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – M. Shafeeq Ahmed, MD, MBA – Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of M. Shafeeq Ahmed, MD, MBA to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority

CR117-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Roberta Kelly – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Roberta Kelly to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

CR118-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – James Bell – Advisory Board on Consumer Protection

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of James Bell to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection

CR119-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – William Phillip Webster – Environmental Sustainability Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of William Phillip Webster to the Environmental Sustainability Board

The Chair moved to table Council Resolution CR108 through 119-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to table Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to table Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 passed.

Financial

CB46-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Amendment – Board of Education Capital Improvement Program – Fiscal Year 2027

Title: AN EMERGENCY ACT amending the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2027 to increase the total Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) projects appropriation by \$6,068,000 due to additional State Aid funding; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property *expires – 09/14/2026; extended – 10/19/2026; extended twice – 11/23/2026*

The Chair moved to approve Council Bill 46-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Council Bill 46-2026 was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Bill 46-2026 passed.

TAO1-FY2027 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Transferring \$2,947,000 – E1059 – Roofing

Title: AN ACT transferring \$2,947,000 in County funding from capital project E1059 - Roofing to capital projects E1058 and E1060, Systemic Renovation and Faulkner Ridge Center, to align with revised Board of Education requests due to \$6,060,000 additional State grant funding received for school projects

The Chair moved to approve TAO1-FY2027. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve TAO1-FY2027 was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve TAO1-FY2027 passed.

CB47-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Authorizing and empowering – bonds - \$2,947,000

Title: AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$2,947,000 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 2027 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

expires – 09/14/2026; extended – 10/19/2026; extended twice – 11/23/2026

The Chair moved to approve Council Bill 47-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Council Bill 47-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Bill 47-2026 passed.

CR120-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Howard County Board of Education – Fiscal Year 2027 – Operating budget amendment

Title: A RESOLUTION approving an amendment to the operating budget of the Board of Education in order to increase its General Fund by \$6,818,972 to reflect an increase of \$25,078 in State funding and the additional use of \$6,793,894 in the Howard County School System’s fund balance; to increase its Restricted Funds by \$21,287,647 to reflect increased appropriation in the Food and Nutrition, Grants and School Construction funds, primarily due to higher than expected State and Federal funding; and generally relating to the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget of the Board of Education

The Chair moved to approve Council Resolution 120-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Council Resolution 120-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Resolution 120-2026 passed.

General

CR121-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Endorsing a designation – Elkridge – Sustainable Community

Title: A RESOLUTION endorsing the designation of Elkridge as a Sustainable Community, for approval either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland or through the Smart Growth Subcabinet of the State of Maryland; adopting the Sustainable Community Plan described in the County's Sustainable Community Application, indicating certain endorsement by the County Executive; authorizing certain signatures; and requiring certain copies be sent to the Department of Housing and Community Development

The Chair moved to approve Council Resolution 121-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The Chair moved to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 121-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 121-2026

(This Amendment makes technical changes to better align with the State model ordinance with regard to the model’s reference to the Sustainable Community Plan and Map and corrects the name of the State Subcabinet.)

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 121-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 121-2026 passed.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Council Resolution 121-2026 as amended was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Resolution 121-2026 as amended passed.

CR122-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting – Delegated authority for Director of Housing and Community Development

Title: A RESOLUTION granting delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Community Development to sign as the certifying officer for environmental review records in HEROS (HUD Environmental Review Online System) authorized under 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58

The Chair moved to approve Council Resolution 122-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Council Resolution 122-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann. Nay: Council Member Walsh

The motion to approve Council Resolution 122-2026 passed.

CR123-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Conveyance of approximately 48.635 acres at Troy Park – Howard County Board of Education

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code declaring that approximately 48.635 acres of land owned by Howard County, Maryland located at Troy Park in ElkrIDGE, Howard County, is no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to convey the property to the Board of Education of Howard County, subject to a deed restriction that the County Properties shall be used for a future public school or they will revert to County ownership; 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

The Chair moved to approve Council Resolution 123-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

Council Member Yungmann moved to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 123-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 123-2026

(This Amendment reserves an easement unto the County in, on, over, across, and through the County Properties for the construction, use, and maintenance of recreational facilities.)

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 123-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to Council Resolution 123-2026 passed.

Council Member Walsh moved to approve Amendment 2 to Council Resolution 123-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

Amendment 2 to Council Resolution 123-2026

(This Amendment clarifies that the County Properties being conveyed shall be used for a future high school in Elkridge.)

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Amendment 2 to Council Resolution 123-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 2 to Council Resolution 123-2026 passed.

Council Member Rigby moved to approve Amendment 3 to Council Resolution 123-2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones.

Amendment 3 to Council Resolution 123-2026

(This Amendment replaces the pronouns in the resolution with gender neutral language.)

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Amendment 3 to Council Resolution 123-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 3 to Council Resolution 123-2026 passed.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Council Resolution 123-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Resolution 123-2026 passed.

CB48-2026 - Introduced by Christiana Rigby

Short Title: Clean Air Integrity Act

Title: AN ACT amending certain definitions; modifying certain establishments from exceptions to the prohibition on smoking in public places; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to smoking in public places in Howard County

expires – 09/14/2026; extended – 10/19/2026; extended twice – 11/23/2026

Council Member Rigby moved to approve Council Bill 48-2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones.

Council Member Yungmann moved to approve Amendment 1 to Council Bill 48-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

Amendment 1 to Council Bill 48-2026

(This Amendment strikes the provision that a retail tobacco store is exempt from the prohibition of smoking in a public place if the retail tobacco store does not permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises.)

The roll call vote by the Administrator to approve Amendment 1 to Council Bill 48-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, and Yungmann. Nay: Council Member Rigby and Walsh.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to Council Bill 48-2026 passed.

Council Member Rigby moved to table Council Bill 48-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to table Council Bill 48-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to table Council Bill 48-2026 passed.

The Chair moved to remove Council Bill 48-2026 from the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to remove Council Bill 48-2026 from table was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to remove Council Bill 48-2026 from the table passed.

The Chair moved to extend the life of Council Bill 48-2026 to October 19, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to extend the life of Council Bill 48-2026 to October 19, 2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to extend the life of Council Bill 48-2026 to October 19, 2026 passed.

The Chair moved to table Council Bill 48-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote by the Administrator to table Council Bill 48-2026 was Yea: Council Member Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to table Council Bill 48-2026 passed.

Adjourned at 10:31 a.m.