

# CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

## AGENDA

**Charter Review Commission  
March 3, 2020  
Banneker Room  
George Howard Building  
7:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing: Testimony from Interested Parties on the Howard County Charter and the draft preliminary recommendations of the Charter Review Commission

### SYNOPSIS OF THE DRAFT PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

- 1) The Commission recommends expanding the County Council from five members to seven members, comprising seven individually-elected districts. [Sec. 202]
- 2) The Commission recommends that the charter be changed so that the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission shall have seven members appointed by the County Council from a list of applicants, that no more than three members may be from the same political party, and that no person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who holds elective office or any office with a political party or resides in the same household of any such person. [Sec. 202 (f)]
- 3) The Commission recommends moving the deadline forward for the actions associated with the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission. Specifically, we recommend moving the appointment date March 1st, the due date for the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission report to September 15th, and the deadline for acceptance to November 30th of the same year. [Sec. 202 (f)]
- 4) The Commission recommends reducing the terms of standing boards and commissions, except for the County Board of Appeals, from five to three years. [Sec. 404(a)]
- 5) The Commission recommends establishing the Office of Law as a fully independent branch of the County government, giving the County Solicitor the authority to appoint deputies and assistants, and require the County Executive to include the budget for the Office of Law, as submitted, as part of the County Budget. [Sec. 405]

# CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

---

6) The Commission recommends updating the notice requirements in Sections 212, 602(b), 605, 1001, and 1003 to include publication in at least one electronic medium, in addition to the newspaper publication currently required in those sections.