

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Amendment 2
Council Resolution No. 94-2020

Amendment Proposed by: Liz Walsh

Introduced: June 1, 2020

Auditor: Lisa Geerman

Fiscal Impact:

There will be no fiscal impact as a result of this amendment.

Purpose:

This amendment clarifies that the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission consist of seven members and removes the requirement that they be appointed by separate resolution and that if any Council Member votes against the resolution it is deemed to have failed. It also removes the requirements regarding the role of the Central Committee.

This amendment adds that the Council shall appoint all members of the Commission from a list of Howard County registered voters who reasonably reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, gender, and age diversity of the County. It requires that the composition of the Commission be proportional to the percentage of Howard County registered voters' party affiliation, including unaffiliated voters, according to the most recent election records of the State Board of Elections.

This amendment adds an additional requirement for appointment to the Commission by requiring that no person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who is a candidate for elective office or resides in the same household of any such person, who is a political party officer, a registered lobbyist, or staff of a current elected official, a consultant to a current elected official, or who is an immediate family member or household member of a current elected official. It also requires that no person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who has donated \$2,500 or more to a candidate for elective office in the preceding forty-eight months.

This amendment adds an additional requirement regarding the Commission by requiring that the Commission consider the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and preserve communities of interest when developing the plan of Councilmanic districts.

This amendment requires that there be at least two public hearings on the plan during various times of the day to accommodate the schedules of residents.

Other Comments:

None.