

Introduced 02.02.2026
Public Hearing 02.17.2026
Council Action 03.02.2026
Executive Action 03.05.2026
Effective Date 05.05.2026

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 2

Bill No. 13 -2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Executive Reorganization – Department of General Services – Mail and Fleet

Title: AN ACT reorganizing the Executive Branch of County Government pursuant to Section 403 of the Howard County Charter; moving certain central service functions to include mail and fleet to the Department of General Services; and generally relating to the Executive Branch of County Government.

Introduced and read first time Feb 2, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.
By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on Feb 17, 2026.
By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Mar 2, 2026 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.
By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 3 day of March, 2026 at 5⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.
By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive March 5, 2026
Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the**
2 *Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By amending:*

4
5 *Title 6. "County Executive and the Executive Branch"*
6 *Section 6.201. "Department of County Administration"*

7
8 *Title 6. "County Executive and the Executive Branch"*
9 *Subsection (d) of Section 6.401. "Department of County Administration"*

10
11 *Title 6. "County Executive and the Executive Branch"*
12 *6.403. "Office of Central Services"*

13
14 *Title 29. "Department of General Services"*
15 *Section 29.102. "Duties and Responsibilities"*

16
17 *By adding:*

18 *Title 29. "Department of General Services"*
19 *Section 29.103. "Central Services and Fleet Management"*

20
21 **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch**
22 **Subtitle 2. Administrative Departments and Offices.**

23
24 **Section 6.201. Department of County Administration.**

25 (a) *Department of County Administration.* There is a Department of County Administration. The
26 qualifications of its Director and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in
27 subtitle 4, "Department of County Administration," of this title 6, "County Executive and the
28 Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.

29 (b) *Office of Budget.* There is an Office of Budget. The qualifications of its Administrator and
30 the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in section 22.400A, "Office of Budget,"

1 of subtitle 4, "Budget Procedures," of title 22, "General Provisions, Penalties, etc.," of the
2 Howard County Code.

3 (c) *Office of Human Rights and Equity.* There is an Office of Human Rights and Equity. The
4 qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in
5 subtitle 2, "Human Rights," of title 12, "Health and Human Services," of the Howard County
6 Code.

7 **[[d)]** *Office of Central Services.* There is an Office of Central Services. The qualifications of its
8 Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in subtitle 4,
9 "Department of County Administration" of this title 6, "County Executive and the Executive
10 Branch" of the Howard County Code.]]

11 **[[e)]D)** *Office of Human Resources.* There is an Office of Human Resources. The qualifications
12 of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in subtitle 1,
13 "Human Resources Administration" of title 1 "Human Resources," of the Howard County Code.

14 **[[f)]E)** *Office of Public Information.* There is an Office of Public Information. The
15 qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in
16 subtitle 4, "Department of County Administration," of this title 6, "County Executive and the
17 Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.

18 **[[g)]F)** *Office of Procurement and Contract Administration.* There is an Office of Procurement
19 and Contract Administration. The qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties
20 and responsibilities are set forth in subtitle 4, "Department of County Administration," of title 6,
21 "County Executive and the Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.

22 **[[h)]G)** *Office of Community Sustainability.* There is an Office of Community Sustainability.
23 The qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set
24 forth in subtitle 4, "Department of County Administration" of this title of the Howard County
25 Code.

26 **[[i)]H)** *Office of Transportation.* There is an Office of Transportation. The qualifications of its
27 Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in subtitle 4,
28 "Department of County Administration" of this title of the Howard County Code.

29 **[[j)]I)** *Office of Workforce Development.* There is an Office of Workforce Development. The
30 qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in
31 subtitle 4, "Department of County Administration" of this title of the Howard County Code.

1 (~~[[k]]J~~) *Office of Consumer Protection.* There is an Office of Consumer Protection. The
2 qualifications of its Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in
3 subtitle 4, "Consumer Protection," of title 17, "Public Protection Services," of this Code.

4 (~~[[I]]K~~) *Office of Agriculture.* There is an Office of Agriculture. The qualifications of its
5 Administrator and the nature of its duties and responsibilities are set forth in subtitle 5,
6 "Agricultural Preservation," of title 15, "Natural Resources," of this Code.

7
8 **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch**

9 **Subtitle 4. Department of County Administration.**

10
11 **Section 6.401. Department of County Administration.**

12 (d) *Duties and Responsibilities:*

13 (1) *Acting Executive.* Pursuant to section 302 of the Howard County Charter, and upon
14 designation by the County Executive, the Chief Administrative Officer shall perform
15 the duties and responsibilities of the Executive during the latter's temporary inability to
16 perform by reason of absence from the County or disability.

17 (2) *General administrative duties and responsibilities.* The Chief Administrative Officer
18 shall perform administrative duties and responsibilities and exercise general
19 supervision over the offices and Departments of County Government as the Executive
20 may direct. The Chief Administrative Officer shall perform duties and responsibilities
21 prescribed by law, including any duties or responsibilities to be performed by the
22 County Administrator.

23 (3) *Budget duties and responsibilities.* The Chief Administrative Officer or the officer's
24 designee shall be responsible for budgetary functions for the County and as such shall
25 prepare and submit to the Executive for approval and submission to the Council all
26 County budgets, prepared in the manner and form provided by law.

27 (4) *Personnel duties and responsibilities.* The Chief Administrative Officer or the officer's
28 designee shall be responsible for personnel functions for the County. The Chief
29 Administrative Officer or the officer's designee shall have the duties and
30 responsibilities and perform the functions of the Personnel Officer provided in article
31 VII of the Charter and other duties and responsibilities and functions specified by the

1 Howard County Charter or by law. The Chief Administrative Officer may assign any
2 administrative and/or supervisory duties and responsibilities to the Deputy Chief
3 Administrative Officer.

- 4 (5) *Purchasing duties and responsibilities.* The Chief Administrative Officer or the
5 officer's designee shall be responsible for purchasing functions for the County. As
6 such, the Chief Administrative Officer or the officer's designee shall be the County
7 Purchasing Agent and shall be responsible for the administration of the central
8 purchasing policies of the County provided in the Howard County Charter or by law.

9 [(6) *Report on County vehicle fleet.*

10 (i) In this paragraph the following words have the meanings indicated:

- 11 a. *Class 1 vehicle* means a passenger car or a truck with a manufacturer's rated
12 capacity of one ton or less;
- 13 b. *Class 2 vehicle* means a vehicle with a manufacturer's rated capacity of more
14 than one ton.
- 15 c. *Class 3 vehicle* means a vehicle used primarily for construction or a similar
16 purpose and not categorized as a Class 1, 2 or 4 vehicle; and
- 17 d. *Class 4 vehicle* means a vehicle that is used by the Department of Fire and
18 Rescue Services and is not a Class 1 vehicle.

19 (ii) On or before February 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer shall
20 submit a report to the County Executive and, subject to section 22.1000 of the
21 County Code, the County Council on the County's vehicle fleet. The report shall
22 include:

- 23 a. A list of Class 1, 2, 3 and 4 County vehicles scheduled to be replaced in the
24 current fiscal year; and
- 25 b. A list of Class 1 vehicles that are past or within two years of the end of their
26 estimated useful life.

27 (iii) In addition to the information required by subparagraph (6)(ii) of this subsection,
28 every two years the report shall include:

- 29 a. For each Class 2, 3 and 4 County vehicle that is past or within five years of
30 the end of its estimated useful life:

- 31 1. The date of purchase;

- 1 2. The purchase price;
- 2 3. The estimated useful life;
- 3 4. The estimated replacement cost;
- 4 5. The estimated year of replacement;
- 5 6. The current total mileage or hours of use;
- 6 7. Except for Class 4 vehicles, the amount of the annual capitalization
- 7 charge; and
- 8 8. Except for Class 4 vehicles, the current balance of the
- 9 capitalization charge; and

10 b. The lifetime total for maintenance and repair for each Class 2, 3 and 4
11 County vehicle that is past or within three years of the end of its estimated
12 useful life.]]

13 ((7))6) *Risk management.* Regarding the County's risk management, loss prevention, and
14 insurance management programs, the Chief Administrative Officer may (1) designate
15 an individual to oversee the administration of the County's programs and (2) designate
16 an individual to directly administer these programs who shall:

- 17 (i) Develop insurance recommendations and coordinate insurance procurement
- 18 packages;
- 19 (ii) Coordinate, develop, and manage in-house cost containment/loss control
- 20 procedures;
- 21 (iii) Determine the allocation cost of self insurance and purchased insurance to the
- 22 various agencies;
- 23 (iv) Review the County's contracts to determine liability impact;
- 24 (v) Supervise the County's safety program;
- 25 (vi) Supervise the claims management function involving the receipt, adjustment and
- 26 disposal of claims filed against the County;
- 27 (vii) Authorize the denial and payment of liability claims;
- 28 (viii) Submit an annual report to the County Executive on the activities of the risk
- 29 management function and the status of the risk management fund; and
- 30 (ix) Perform any other task necessary to administer the County's risk management
- 31 program.

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[[Section 6.403. Office of Central Services.

(a) *General Provisions.* General provisions regarding this Office are set forth in subtitle 2, "Administrative Departments and Offices" of [this] title 6, "County Executive and the Executive Branch" of the Howard County Code.

(b) *Head.* The Central Services Administrator shall head the Office of Central Services. The Chief Administrative Officer shall exercise general supervision over the Office of Central Services.

(c) *Qualifications of Central Services Administrator.* The Central Services Administrator shall be a classified employee whose qualifications are set forth in the classification system.

(d) *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Office of Central Services shall be responsible for providing central service functions and fleet management services for County offices, Departments, Boards, and institutions as provided in this subsection.

- (1) The Office shall provide central services, including:
 - (i) Copying and duplicating;
 - (ii) Printing services and associated services such as collating and binding;
 - (iii) Mail services including in-house mail handling, mailing and delivery of items sent through U.S. mail or other delivery services;
 - (iv) Messenger service;
 - (v) Motor pool;
 - (vi) Maintaining a supply store for County agencies to purchase office and other work supplies;
 - (vii) Operating warehouses for the storage of County equipment; and
 - (viii) Other central services as may be specified from time to time by directive of the Chief Administrative Officer or the County Executive.
- (2) Except for specific vehicles and small engines excluded by directive of the County Executive, the Office shall provide fleet management and vehicle and small engine operation services for all County-owned vehicles and small engines, including:
 - (i) Subject to County purchasing law, the acquisition and disposal of all County-owned vehicles and small engines;

- 1 (ii) The assignment of County-owned vehicles and small engines to County
2 Departments and agencies; and
3 (iii) The maintenance and repair of County-owned vehicles and small engines.
4 (3) The Office shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed by directive of the
5 County Executive or by law.]]
6

7 **Title 29. Department of General Services.**

8 **Subtitle 1. Department of General Services.**

9
10 **Section 29.102. Duties and responsibilities.**

- 11 (a) *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Department shall perform the following functions:
12 (1) Care for and maintain County-owned or leased space, including alterations, repairs,
13 cleaning, heating, cooling, lighting, power supply, floor covering, and painting.
14 Landscaping and mowing may be performed by the Department, the Department of
15 Public Works, or the Department of Recreation and Parks.
16 (2) Prepare reports, studies, surveys, maps, plans, specifications and estimates for the
17 County's public facilities.
18 (3) Construct County-owned buildings and improvements to County-owned or leased
19 buildings.
20 (4) Acquire real property as prescribed by law and as directed by the County Executive.
21 (5) Obtain and administer agreements which provide for the construction of public
22 facilities which the County may acquire upon completion of the terms of the
23 agreement.
24 (6) Provide architectural services for County Government buildings.
25 (7) Manage property owned or leased by the County which may include renting or leasing
26 County-owned property to private individuals or companies, if the County does not
27 have an immediate use for the property.
28 (8) Obtain leased space to be used by the County and agencies for which the County
29 provides space, including:
30 (i) Renting or leasing property; and

1 (ii) Coordinating with agencies to determine its needs for additional or alternate space
2 and securing that space in property.

3 (9) Develop and administer capital projects, including, but not limited to:

4 (i) Preparing necessary plans, and other documents;

5 (ii) Managing and inspecting, as appropriate, of construction; and

6 (iii) Participating with the Purchasing Agent in the tabulation and evaluation of bids
7 and recommendation of contract awards.

8 (10) Record deeds related to the release of utility easements pursuant to section 4.201 of
9 this Code.

10 (11) PROVIDE CENTRAL SERVICE AND FLEET MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS FOR COUNTY OFFICES,
11 DEPARTMENTS, AND OTHER AFFILIATED AGENCIES AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 29.103 OF
12 THIS SUBTITLE.

13 ([[11]]12) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be prescribed by directive
14 of the County Executive or by law.

15
16 **SECTION 29.103. CENTRAL SERVICES AND FLEET MANAGEMENT.**

17 (A) *CENTRAL SERVICES*. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE CENTRAL SERVICES FUNCTIONS,
18 INCLUDING:

19 (1) MAIL SERVICES INCLUDING IN-HOUSE MAIL HANDLING, MAILING AND DELIVERY OF ITEMS
20 SENT THROUGH U.S. MAIL OR OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES;

21 (2) MESSENGER SERVICE;

22 (3) OPERATING WAREHOUSES FOR THE STORAGE OF COUNTY EQUIPMENT; AND

23 (4) OTHER CENTRAL SERVICES AS MAY BE SPECIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY DIRECTIVE OF THE
24 DIRECTOR, THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

25 (B) *FLEET MANAGEMENT*. EXCEPT FOR SPECIFIC VEHICLES AND SMALL ENGINES EXCLUDED BY
26 DIRECTIVE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE FLEET MANAGEMENT
27 AND VEHICLE AND SMALL ENGINE OPERATION SERVICES FOR ALL COUNTY-OWNED VEHICLES AND
28 SMALL ENGINES, INCLUDING:

29 (1) SUBJECT TO COUNTY PURCHASING LAW, THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF ALL COUNTY-
30 OWNED VEHICLES AND SMALL ENGINES;

1 (2) THE ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY-OWNED VEHICLES AND SMALL ENGINES TO COUNTY
2 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES; AND

3 (3) THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF COUNTY-OWNED VEHICLES AND SMALL ENGINES.

4 (C) *REPORT ON COUNTY VEHICLE FLEET.*

5 (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

6 (I) *CLASS 1 VEHICLE* MEANS A PASSENGER CAR OR A TRUCK WITH A MANUFACTURER'S
7 RATED CAPACITY OF ONE TON OR LESS;

8 (II) *CLASS 2 VEHICLE* MEANS A VEHICLE WITH A MANUFACTURER'S RATED CAPACITY OF
9 MORE THAN ONE TON;

10 (III) *CLASS 3 VEHICLE* MEANS A VEHICLE USED PRIMARILY FOR CONSTRUCTION OR A SIMILAR
11 PURPOSE AND NOT CATEGORIZED AS A CLASS 1, 2 OR 4 VEHICLE; AND

12 (IV) *CLASS 4 VEHICLE* MEANS A VEHICLE THAT IS USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
13 RESCUE SERVICES AND IS NOT A CLASS 1 VEHICLE.

14 (2) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO
15 THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND, SUBJECT TO SECTION
16 22.1000 OF THE COUNTY CODE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE COUNTY'S VEHICLE FLEET.
17 THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

18 (I) A LIST OF CLASS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 COUNTY VEHICLES SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED IN THE
19 CURRENT FISCAL YEAR; AND

20 (II) A LIST OF CLASS 1 VEHICLES THAT ARE PAST OR WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE END OF
21 THEIR ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE.

22 (3) IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
23 EVERY TWO YEARS THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

24 (I) FOR EACH CLASS 2, 3 AND 4 COUNTY VEHICLE THAT IS PAST OR WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF
25 THE END OF ITS ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE:

26 A. THE DATE OF PURCHASE;

27 B. THE PURCHASE PRICE;

28 C. THE ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE;

29 D. THE ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT COST;

30 E. THE ESTIMATED YEAR OF REPLACEMENT;

31 F. THE CURRENT TOTAL MILEAGE OR HOURS OF USE;

1 G. EXCEPT FOR CLASS 4 VEHICLES, THE AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL CAPITALIZATION
2 CHARGE; AND

3 H. EXCEPT FOR CLASS 4 VEHICLES, THE CURRENT BALANCE OF THE CAPITALIZATION
4 CHARGE; AND

5 (II) THE LIFETIME TOTAL FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR EACH CLASS 2, 3 AND 4
6 COUNTY VEHICLE THAT IS PAST OR WITHIN THREE YEARS OF THE END OF ITS ESTIMATED
7 USEFUL LIFE.

8
9 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,***
10 ***that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

SUBJECT: Council Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement
Reorganizing the Department of County Administration and the Department of
General Services.

TO: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Dawn Tinker
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 20, 2026

This legislation is the enactment of the Reorganization Plan submitted to the Council in December of 2025, pursuant to Section 403 of the Howard County Charter.

The Plan provides to reorganize the Department of County Administration to remove the Office of Central Services. This Plan is proposed in order to consolidate the functions of Central Services under the Department of General Services (DGS).

Accordingly, this legislation provides that the Office of Central Services under DGS will provide greater continuity of government and align the central services of government operations under one department. The bill will achieve efficiency and continue the singular mission that this new department was envisioned to develop within the County. The reorganization will model similar neighboring jurisdictions that house fleet and facilities management, central services, and real estate under one department umbrella. The legislation also amends Code provisions that govern the Department of County Administration in order to remove those functions that are moving to the new DGS including, without limitation, the following:

1. Providing report on County vehicle fleet to the County Executive and County Council yearly.
2. Providing mail services including in-house mail handling, mailing, and delivery of items sent through U.S. Mail or other services.
3. Providing fleet management and vehicle and small engine operation services for all County-owned vehicles and small engines.

Fiscal Impact

The proposal is expected to reclassify one position: the Administrator of Central Fleet would be reclassified as an Engineering Manager I (Chief). There are no immediate costs anticipated with the reassignment of employees from Office of Central Services to DGS. This fiscal information may be subject to change as we work through this plan.

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on March 05, 2026.

Michelle Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council