

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 129 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Rabbi Craig Axler– Interfaith Advisory Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rabbi Craig Axler to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

Introduced and read first time on Sep 8, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on sep 22, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

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

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.352 and 12.222 of the Howard County Code provide for an Interfaith Advisory Commission in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Rabbi Craig Axler as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 5, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Rabbi Craig Axler
Fulton, Maryland

RABBI CRAIG H. AXLER

EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbinic Ordination, May 2003

Jerusalem and New York, NY

Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature, May 2002

Rabbinic Thesis: "Liturgical Aspects in the Poetry of Yehuda Amichai"

- Awarded Prizes in Interfaith Relations, Talmud, Homiletics and Preaching, Modern Hebrew Literature, Human Relations and Midrash.

The State University of New York – The College at New Paltz

Bachelor of Science, *magna cum laude*, Spring 1994

New Paltz, NY

Major: Music Therapy

- Academic Year Program in Israel, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, 1992-1993

CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Temple Isaiah, Fulton, MD

2012-present

Senior Rabbi

Congregation Beth Or, *Maple Glen, PA*

Rabbi

2003-2102

Temple Beth Shalom – Hickory Jewish Center, *Hickory, North Carolina*

Student Rabbi

2000-2003

Woodlands Community Temple, *White Plains, NY*

Rabbinic Intern

Summer 2002

Additional Synagogue Experience:

- Temple Emanuel (Cherry Hill, NJ) High Holy Day Intern
- East End Temple (NY,NY) Youth Advisor
- Rodeph Sholom Congregation (NY, NY) Prayer Coordinator and Music Specialist
- Larchmont Temple (Larchmont, NY) Youth Advisor and Music Specialist

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Jewish Federation of Howard County – Board member 2016-2018
- Howard County Board of Jewish Clergy 2014-2016
 - President/Board Chair
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County 2024-present
 - Member, representative of the Board of Jewish Clergy
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis 2018-2022
 - Executive Board, President
- Howard County Clergy Alliance – member 2020 - present
- Interfaith Advisory Council – Howard County – member 2024-2025
- Zionist Rabbinic Coalition – member 2018 – present
- Jewish National Fund – Rabbis For Israel, chair 2018 - 2023