

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 93-2020

Introduced: June 1, 2020

Auditor: Lisa Geerman

Fiscal Impact:

There will be minimal fiscal impact of this legislation.

According to the Baltimore Sun's Ad Options website, the cost¹ to publish the amendment announcement in the Howard County Times will be approximately \$340.

Purpose:

The resolution proposes a change to Section 202 of the County Charter to alter the date the Council must appoint a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission, the date the Commission must prepare and present the plan to the Council, and the date the plan becomes law. Changes are noted in the table below.

Event	Original Date	Amended Date
Appoint Redistrict Commission	April 1	Not later than January 15
Presentation of Plan	October 15	September 15
Plan Becomes Law	March 15	December 31 after presentation of Plan

Other Comments:

The Charter Review Commission recommended moving the above deadlines forward to allow the Howard County Board of Elections adequate time to accomplish its work to prepare for the primary election in June 2022. Because the primary elections were moved from September to June in 2014, the 2021 redistricting will be the first redistricting cycle affected by this change.

Charter amendments must be approved by a two-thirds Council vote and are then submitted to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection.

Any amendment to the Charter must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.

The next general election in Maryland is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

¹ Source: <https://placeanad.baltimoresun.com/ad-options/?pub=howard-county-times&type=productpublication>
\$68 per publication x 5 weeks = \$340