



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3
Liz Walsh
District 1
Deb Jung
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed at cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us
10:00 AM

Councilmembers present: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, and David Yungmann.

Staff present: Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Janine McGregor, Acting County Auditor; Yusef Ibrahim, Deputy Council Administrator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Melinda Massey, Fiscal Manager I; and Chairty Respass, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Jones opened the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Monthly Meeting Agenda

1. Annual MACo Update

Michael Sanderson the executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties (“MACo”) and MC Keegan-Ayer, MACo President appeared before the Council to provide an annual update. Mr. Sanderson and Mrs. Keegan-Ayer briefly discussed the upcoming Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly that is scheduled for August 3rd through the 5th to addresses amendments to the Maryland Constitution concerning Congressional redistricting.

Mr. Sanderson and Mrs. Keegan-Ayer then discussed the 2026 Maryland General Assembly legislative session and the major topics debated during the session including the affordability of energy, housing, and childcare. They also discussed the state of Maryland’s current fiscal situation, revenue outlook, and fiscal constraints stemming from the State’s Education Blueprint Program. New Federal rules regarding grant funding was also discussed.

Councilmembers provided comments about Howard County property taxes and available property tax relief options at state level. Questions were also asked about federal grant funding, solar, and cost shares between the State and counties.

2. Reports

- a. MACo/NACo
 - i. No report was provided.
- b. Chairperson
 - i. No report was provided.
- c. Council Administrator
 - i. Administrative Manager Theo Wimberly summarized the Council Administrator's report to the Council.
- d. County Auditor
 - i. Acting County Auditor Janine McGregor summarized the status of audit work.

The Council requested:

- *Copies of Fredrick County legislation concerning solar siting and tax credits for senior homeowners.*
- *The percentage increase in the Frederick County budget for education. .*

Chair Jones adjoined the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Participants

1. Annual MACo Report

Michael Sanderson, Executive Director – MACo
MC Keegan-Ayer, President – MACo