

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11
September 8, 2026

HOWARD COUNTY TO WIT:

The Chair called the legislative session to order at 7:14 p.m.

Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Member Deb Jung, Council Member Liz Walsh and Council Member David Yungmann were present.

Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Nick Rhinehart, Senior Administrative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant were also present.

APPROVE JOURNAL

The Chair moved to approve the Journal of:

Legislative Session – July 29, 2026

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve the Journal was: Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh, and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Journal passed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Appointments

CR124-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment– Larry Daniel Bratt - Opioid Restitution Fund Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Larry Daniel Bratt to the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission.

CR125-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Kim M. Lightfoot, SHRM-SCP – Board of Social Services
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kim M. Lightfoot, SHRM-SCP to the Board of Social Services.

CR127-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Erica Davis – Housing Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the Appointment of Erica Davis to the Housing Commission.

CR128-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Mustafa Mahir Akpınar– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mustafa Mahir Akpınar to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR129-2026 - Introduced by The 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.

CR130-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Rabbi Yanky Baron– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rabbi Yanky Baron to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR131-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Mary O. Barton– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mary O. Barton to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR132-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR133-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Erika Cole– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Erika Cole to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR134-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Rev. Ian C. Collier– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rev. Ian C. Collier to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR135-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Naresh Chandra Das– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Naresh Chandra Das to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR136-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR137-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Emily Eyring Robertson– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Emily Eyring Robertson to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR138-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Alexander Ross– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Alexander Ross to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR139-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Jodi Grossblatt Saunders– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jodi Grossblatt Saunders to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR140-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Hamza E. Zgidou– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Hamza E. Zgidou to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR141-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Rev. Hyiwot Teshome– Interfaith Advisory Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rev. Hyiwot Teshome to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

CR142-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Teresa T. Murbach– Commission on Disabilities
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Teresa T. Murbach to the Commission on Disabilities.

CR143-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment- Josiah D. Wheeler- Human Rights Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Josiah D. Wheeler to the Human Rights Commission.

CR144-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Jennifer Jones – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Jennifer Jones to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

CR145-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Hye Yeong Kwon– SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Hye Yeong Kwon to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

CR146-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – David Norfolk, Jr.– SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing David Norfolk, Jr., to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

CR147-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Jack Morris Powell– SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Jack Morris Powell to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

CR148-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Greg Zudock– SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Greg Zudock to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

CR149-2026 - Introduced by Liz Walsh
Short Title: Appointment – Meg Boyd – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Meg Boyd to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the First Councilmanic District.

CR150-2026 - Introduced by Opel Jones
Short Title: Appointment – Aftab Ahmed – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Aftab Ahmed to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Second Councilmanic District.

CR151-2026 - Introduced by Christiana Rigby
Short Title: Appointment – Hussnain Yaser – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Hussnain Yaser to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Third Councilmanic District.

CR152-2026 - Introduced by Deb Jung
Short Title: Appointment – Doug Siglin – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Doug Siglin to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Fourth Councilmanic District.

CR153-2026 - Introduced by David Yungmann
Short Title: Appointment – Daniel Sweeney – SMART Data Center Task Force
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Daniel Sweeney to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Fifth Councilmanic District.

CR154-2026 - Introduced by Liz Walsh
Short Title: Appointment – Liman (Julia) Zhu – Inspector General Advisory Board
Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Liman (Julia) Zhu to the Inspector General Advisory Board to fill a term ending on April 7, 2030.

Reappointments

CR155-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Antoine RJ Wright – Multimodal Transportation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Antoine RJ Wright to the Multimodal Transportation Board.

CR156-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Joseph Dymek – Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Joseph Dymek to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

CR157-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Chris Rhodes – Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Chris Rhodes to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

CR158-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Leslie Bauer – Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Leslie Bauer to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

Financial

CB49-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Issuance, sale and delivery - \$670,397 bonds - Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration

Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$670,397 bonds, pursuant to a bond enabling law; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, and other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures and to determine the method of sale of such bonds; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and for the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

CB50-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Issuance, sale and delivery – \$150,000,000 consolidated public improvement bonds and \$50,000,000 metropolitan district bonds

Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$150,000,000 consolidated public improvement bonds and up to \$50,000,000 metropolitan district bonds, pursuant to various bond enabling laws; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, and other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures and to determine the method of sale of such bonds; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and for the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

CB51-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Issuance, sale and delivery – Refunding Bonds

Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing and providing for the issuance of Howard County, Maryland Consolidated Public Improvement Refunding Bonds and Howard County, Maryland Metropolitan District Refunding Bonds; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; providing for the private (negotiated) sale of such bonds; providing for an escrow deposit agreement and a continuing disclosure agreement; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, the final list of refunded bonds, and certain other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

CB52-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Credit for Day Care Providers and Additional Childcare Credits

Title: AN ACT for the purpose of repealing the current credit for day care provider, family day-care homes and group care centers and replacing the repealed credit with separate credits for certain day care providers and day care credits for large child care centers consistent with State law authority; and generally relating to property tax credits for real property owned by certain day care providers.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

CB53-2026 - Introduced by The County Executive Co-sponsor(s) Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, David Yungmann

Short Title: Public Safety Officer Tax Credit – Retired Public Safety Officers

Title: AN ACT for the purpose of expanding the Property Tax Credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers who have retired from a public safety agency in Howard County; amending the definition of Public Safety Officer; and generally relating to the Property tax credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

General

CR159-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Supporting – Arts & Culture Plan

Title: A RESOLUTION supporting the Howard County Arts & Culture Plan; providing for the publication of the Plan; providing that the County Executive’s signature indicates support for the Plan.

CR160-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Approving BikeHoward 2026 and indicating support for bicycle-friendly community designation.

Title: A RESOLUTION approving BikeHoward 2026, the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan Update and indicating support for the County’s application to be designated a bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

CR161-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Establishing - Surplus School Use Committee

Title: A RESOLUTION establishing a Surplus School Use Committee to study the disposition of property located at the Howard County Public School System Central Office, located along Md. Route 108; providing for a certain public meeting; providing for the Committee's membership, duties, and lifespan; setting certain deadlines; and generally relating to a Surplus School Use Committee.

CR162-2026 - Introduced by The Chair on behalf of the Council

Short Title: Legislative Session – Changing Specified Date

Title: A RESOLUTION changing a legislative session date for the County Council of Howard County, Maryland.

CB58-2026 - Introduced by Deb Jung

Short Title: Grants – County Grant Agreements – Requirements – Grants Application Platform and Data Base - Established

Title: AN ACT renaming certain sections of the County Code; amending the County's authority to award grants; adding conditions for the application and awarding of grants; establishing requirements for the application and awarding of grants for the purchase, construction, development, or redevelopment of real property; establishing a centralized grants application platform and database; and generally relating to grants.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

CB59-2026 - Introduced by David Yungmann

Short Title: Solar Collector Facilities - Temporary Hold

Title: AN ACT temporarily prohibiting issuance of certain approvals of development plans or building permits for solar energy facilities; require a public meeting with various agencies to discuss the new rules introduced by the Renewable Energy Certainty Act (HB1036) and the implications on Howard County government processes for reviewing solar energy facilities; provide a report to the County Council and County Executive explaining what County authority is preempted in HB1036 and what the County is permitted to require or adopt; and generally relating to solar energy facilities in Howard County.

expires – 11/17/2026; extended – 12/22/2026; extended twice – 01/26/2027

FINAL CONSIDERATION

Appointments

General

CR108-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Kelsey E. Ritter - Environmental Sustainability Board

CR109-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Levita Y. Lowe, MPA, PMP- Human Rights Commission

CR110-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Faith Matranga- Human Rights Commission

CR111-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Brent K. Jones– Commission on Disabilities

CR112-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Omar J. Jones IV – Commission for Veterans and Military Families

CR113-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Katharine T. Hemady – Board of Social Services

Reappointments

CR114-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Antonia B. Watts – Board of Library Trustees

CR115-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Mason Godsey – Planning Board

CR116-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – M. Shafeeq Ahmed, MD, MBA – Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority

CR117-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Roberta Kelly – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

CR118-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – James Bell – Advisory Board on Consumer Protection

CR119-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – William Phillip Webster – Environmental Sustainability Board.

Chair moved to REMOVE Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 from the TABLE.
The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to REMOVE Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 from the TABLE was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to REMOVE Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 from the TABLE passed.

The Administrator read the following legislation for final consideration

CR108-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Kelsey E. Ritter - Environmental Sustainability Board
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kelsey E. Ritter to the Environmental Sustainability Board

CR109-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment- Levita Y. Lowe, MPA, PMP- Human Rights Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Levita Y. Lowe, MPA, PMP to the Human Rights Commission
[luh-VEE-tuh WHY LOH]

CR110-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment- Faith Matranga- Human Rights Commission
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Faith Matranga to the Human Rights Commission

CR111-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Brent K. Jones– Commission on Disabilities
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Brent K. Jones to the Commission on Disabilities

CR112-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Omar J. Jones IV – Commission for Veterans and Military Families
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Omar J. Jones IV to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

CR113-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Appointment – Katharine T. Hemady – Board of Social Services
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Katharine T. Hemady to the Board of Social Services

Reappointments

CR114-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Antonia B. Watts – Board of Library Trustees
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Antonia B. Watts to the Board of Library Trustees

CR115-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Mason Godsey – Planning Board
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Mason Godsey to the Planning Board

CR116-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – M. Shafeeq Ahmed, MD, MBA – Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of M. Shafeeq Ahmed, MD, MBA to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority

CR117-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – Roberta Kelly – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Roberta Kelly to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

CR118-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – James Bell – Advisory Board on Consumer Protection
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of James Bell to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection

CR119-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Reappointment – William Phillip Webster – Environmental Sustainability Board
Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of William Phillip Webster to the Environmental Sustainability Board

Chair moved to approve Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigby.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 was Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Resolutions 108 through 119-2026 passed.

Tabled

Appointments

CB48-2026 - Introduced by Christiana Rigby

Short Title: Clean Air Integrity Act

Title: AN ACT amending certain definitions; modifying certain establishments from exceptions to the prohibition on smoking in public places; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to smoking in public places in Howard County

expires – 09/14/2026; extended – 10/19/2026; extended twice – 11/23/2026

Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.