



# Howard County Council

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

Legislative Work Session  
Web-based Virtual Meeting

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/watch-US>

Wednesday, July 8, 2020  
1:00 p.m.

## Minutes (approved)

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Deb Jung, Chairperson; Opel Jones; Christiana Rigby; Liz Walsh, Vice-chairperson; and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Diane Schwartz Jones, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Jeff Meyers, Sr. Legislative Analyst; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Jennifer Sager

Participants: Linda Wengle, League of Women Voters; Jeremy Eldridge, Democratic Central Committee (DCC); David Marker, Former Chair and member of Redistricting Commission and former member of DCC; Tierra Bradford, Common Cause, Maryland Policy Manager (invited but then needed to leave the meeting)

Meeting opened with general discussion about participants in meeting; whether a representative from the Republican Central Committee should be included; and a discussion about process for inviting guests to Work Sessions and the rules of procedure.

**Council Resolution 93-2020** – Introduced by Deb Jung - A RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Howard County Charter by amending Section 202 “The County Council” by altering certain dates for the Council to appoint a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission and for the Commission to prepare a plan of Councilmanic Districts and present the plan to the Council; altering a date, if by which, no ordinance re-establishing the boundaries of the Councilmanic Districts has been enacted, the plan submitted by the Commission becomes law; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution.

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chairperson  
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chairperson  
District 1

Opel Jones  
District 2

Christiana Rigby  
District 3

David Yungmann  
District 5

**Council Resolution 94-2020** – Introduced by David Yungmann - A RESOLUTION proposing to amend County Charter Section 202 to alter the method for appointing members of a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution.

Councilmembers discussed generally how the Council Redistricting Commission nominations should be put forward, whether from nominations by political central committees; no involvement of committees, or a hybrid approach and how unaffiliated voters can have representation on a redistricting commission.

The League of Women Voters representative indicated that an independent commission is favored created through an open application process.

Mr. Marker who has served on several, and chaired a prior Council Redistricting Commission advised that Congress is considering pushing back the delivery of census data by four months. He also discussed that central committees can do legwork for the Council and suggested that multiple names should be provided for the Council from which the Council can appoint and agreed that there should be representation of unaffiliated voters.

There was discussion about criteria for appointment including prohibitions relating to lobbyists; political candidates; and larger donors.

Yolanda Sonnier, discussed the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Eldridge discussed the supporting role that central committees can provide to get the word out to seek applicants and to make recommendations.

The Chairperson summarized the issues pertaining to CR94-2020:

- I. Should the central committees have a role?
  - a. Should there be a hybrid where the central committees send over names (however many are indicated by the council) or they winnow it down?
  - b. County Council selects people
  - c. None of the above – Ethics commission
- II. Composition - How does the representation occur?

The Council discussed conditions to preclude gerrymandering.

Councilmember Jones revisited the discussion and questions on the process and rules of procedure for inviting guests to Council Work Sessions. Councilmember Rigby requested racial equity training.

The meeting concluded at 2:51p.m.