



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes - Approved

Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
9:30 a.m.

Chair Walsh called to order at: 9:34 a.m.

Council Members Present: Council Chair Liz Walsh, Dr. Opel Jones, Christinia Rigby, Deb Jung, David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Nick Rinehart Legislative Analyst; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Patricia Hammond, Administrative Aide; and Christopher Ashman, County Auditor.

Agenda

1. Federal and State Budget Impact on Howard County

Michael Bayrd, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the Maryland Comptroller's Office discussed Federal and State budget impacts on Howard County. Mr. Bayrd informed the Council of the March Board of Revenue Estimates meeting, where concerns about the Federal and State budget were discussed as well as the impact on Maryland from recent reductions in force of the federal labor force. Due to uncertainty over federal government actions the Comptroller's Office lowered their withholding forecast to 2.4%.

There was general discussion about the Federal and State fiscal situations and their impact on the County. There was also discussion of the State budget shifting costs to counties such as pension cost shifts and damages from wrongful convictions. Maureen Evans, Director of Government

Affairs for the County Executive, joined the discussion to ask the Comptroller's Office about proposed future cost shifts in the state budget.

Council requested follow ups:

- *March 2025 Board of Revenue Estimates Meeting Presentation*
- *Benchmark dates for the Federal and State Budgets*
- *The current status of the Kirwin/State Education Blueprint law*

2. Council Resolution 63-2025

Mr. Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer, Howard County Public Schools Mr. David Lubley, Executive Director, Capital Planning and Construction, Howard County Public Schools, Jolene Mosley, Chair of the Howard County School Board, Felix Facchine, Deputy Chief of Staff, Howard County Executive, Maureen Evans, Director of Government Affairs for the Howard County Executive were present to answer questions regarding Council Resolution 63-2025.

There was general discussion among the Council and Howard County Public Schools representatives. Topics of discussion included why a supplemental request to the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction ("IAC") was made, where additional funds originated, and how the projects included in the supplemental request were identified. Mr. Brown outlined the procedure the school system undergoes when determining what school capital projects should be included in the request to the IAC.

There was then a general discussion about the cost of capital projects and the availability of State funds for those projects as well as what processes the School Board uses to ensure that the County is maximizing available state funds for capital projects. It was stated that the cost of projects, condition of existing facilities, and available funds are all factors considered in identifying projects.

Council requested follow ups:

- *Provide the State of Maryland Facilities Report*

3. Spending Affordability Advisory Committee Report

The Howard County Spending Affordability Committee including Holly Sun, Chair, Todd Arterburn, Vice Chair, Barabra Lawson, Dr. Richard Clinch, Ellen Flynn-Giles, Steve Hunt, Josh Tzucker presented the FY 2026 Spending Affordability Advisory Committee Report. Ms. Sun gave introductory remarks and thanked the work of the Committee.

The Committee emphasized that due to the Federal and State budgets, Fiscal Year 2026 is an unprecedented year for the County. The Committee gave a presentation outlining the County's 2026 Fiscal Year expectations. The Committee discussed the County's financial outlook, demographic trends, revenue sources, and risk factors. The Committee also put forth recommendations

4. Bond Rating Update

Council moved this agenda item to the April 14, 2025 Monthly Meeting.

5. Reports

There was no report from the chair. There was no discussion of the other reports.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:34

Legislative Monthly Meeting-Participants
Monday March 10, 2025

Federal and State Budget Impact on Howard County

Michael Bayrd Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the Maryland Comptroller's Office

Council Resolution 63-2025

County Administration

Maureen Evans, Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Partnerships

Felix Facchine, Deputy Chief of Staff

Howard County Public School System

Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer

David Lubley, Executive Director, Capital Planning and Construction

Board of Education

Jolene Mosley, Chair

Spending Affordability Advisory Committee Report

Holly Sun, Chair

Todd Arterburn, Vice Chair

Barbara Lawson

Dr. Richard Clinch

Ellen Flynn-Giles

Steve Hunt

Josh Tzucker

Bond Rating Update

Finance

Rafiu Ighile, Director of Finance

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001 or email CouncilADA@howardcountymd.gov