



# 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  
District 4

David Yungmann  
District 5

## Minutes - Approved

Legislative Public Hearing  
Monday, May 19, 2025  
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)  
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>  
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon), 99 and 1071(Comcast)  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Council Chair Liz Walsh, Vice Chair Opel Jones, Council Member Christiana Rigby; Council Member Deb Jung, and Council Member David Yungmann were present.

**Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Chris Ashman, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jen Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Nick Rinehart, Senior Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant, were also present.

- I. Call to Order at 7:03 PM
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Public Hearing

### A. Budget

- 1. **CB45-2025** - AN ACT to modify the restriction on the use of excess surplus revenue pursuant to Section 615B of the Howard County Charter in order to use excess surplus revenue from prior years to further support the Operating Budget request of the Board of Education in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget; providing that this act shall be temporary and shall expire by June 30, 2026; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet an immediate emergency affecting public health, safety or welfare
  - a. Henry Yarmus - Junior, River Hill High School, called to speak
  - b. Gavin Falcon - Student Government Association, Sophomore Long Reach High School, called to speak

### B. Appointments

- 1. **CR70-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the Appointment of Ashlyn M. Hood to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection
  - a. Ashlyn Hood, called to speak.

2. **CR82-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Frank V. Eastham Jr. to the Howard County Local Children's Board
  - a. Frank Eastham, called to speak.
3. **CR83-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Cristiana Little to the La Alianza Latina Commission
  - a. Cristiana Little called to speak.
4. **CR84-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jeff Rubin to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission
  - a. Jeff Rubin, called to speak.

#### **C. Reappointments**

1. **CR85-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Nina Basu to the Human Rights Commission
2. **CR86-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Dr. Daria J. Willis to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority
3. **CR87-2025** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Jimmy Rhee to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority

#### **D. Financial - Non-Budget**

1. **SAO1-FY2025** - AN ACT transferring \$2,000,000 from the General Fund, Contingency Reserve to the Department of Public Works for unanticipated expenses related to snow removal
  - a. Yosef Kebede - Administrator, Department of Public Works, called to speak.
2. **CB32-2025** - AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025 to provide additional spending authority in the Risk Management Self-Insurance fund due to unanticipated and high value claims; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property
  - a. Anju Bennett - Human Resources Administrator, called to speak.
3. **CR88-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving supplemental appropriation to increase the Howard County Board of Education (BOE) Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 by \$5,533,181 to cover estimated overages in certain categories, with supplemental funding identified from increased state aid, higher than budgeted interest income, and additional use of BOE fund balance; and also approving certain transfers between major categories; and generally relating to the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget of the Board of Education
  - a. Darin Conforti - Executive Director of Budget, Howard County Public School System, called to speak.

4. **CB33-2025** - AN ACT for purposes of the property tax credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers, amending the definition of Public Safety Officer to include Auxiliary Officers; providing the tax credit in certain instances; making certain clarifying amendments; removing redundant provisions; and generally relating to the property tax credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers
  - a. Rafu Ighile - Director of Finance, called to speak.
  - b. Paul Bertulis, called to speak.
  - c. Christopher Sajewicz, called to speak.

#### **E. Budget**

1. **CB34-2025** - AN ACT amending the Pay Plan for Howard County; providing pay scales for employees and members of certain collective bargaining units to be effective July 1, 2025 and January 1, 2026, in certain instances; amending provisions that govern compensatory time; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the Pay Plan for Howard County
  - a. Bill Chenowith - Labor Relations Specialist, AFSCME Local 3888, called to speak
  - b. Anju Bennett - Human Resources Administrator, called to speak.
2. **CB36-2025** - AN ACT adopting the current expense budget and the capital budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, to be known as the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2026
  - a. Cat Carter, called to speak.
  - b. Anthony DeBella, called to speak.
  - c. Jackie DeBella, called to speak.
3. **CB35-2025** - AN ACT amending the Classification Plan for Howard County to establish the class code, pay grade, qualifications, duties, and general requirements for the Director and Deputy Director of the Department of General Services; and generally relating to the Howard County Classification Plan
  - a. Anju Bennett, called to speak.
4. **CB37-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the principal amount of up to \$103,139,518 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County capital projects (including bridge projects, general county projects, storm drainage projects, school system projects, fire and rescue projects, road construction projects, roadside and sidewalk projects, library projects, community college projects, parks and recreation projects, police projects and traffic improvements projects), which are specified and described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain capital projects previously authorized in other calendar years, which such authorization has lapsed or will lapse), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

5. **CB38-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$54,652,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain General County projects as more particularly described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with amounts collected by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
6. **CB39-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount of up to \$8,131,789 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County road construction projects which are specified and described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain of such capital projects previously authorized), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with building excise taxes and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
7. **CB40-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the principal amount of up to \$81,031,054 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County water and sewer capital projects which are specified and described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain water and sewer capital projects previously authorized in prior calendar years which such authorization has lapsed or will lapse), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with benefit assessments, ad valorem taxes levied upon the assessable property in the Metropolitan District and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
8. **CB41-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$23,200,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue debt obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain General County projects as more particularly described in the County's Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such debt obligations; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

9. **CB42-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$14,276,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County watershed protection and restoration projects as more particularly described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with amounts held in the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
10. **CB43-2025** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$1,000,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County broadband projects as more particularly described in the County's 2026 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with amounts held in the Non-County Government BBI Fund and the Private Sector BBI Fund and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
11. **CB44-2025** - AN ACT to authorize and empower Howard County, Maryland, to enter into installment purchase agreements to acquire development rights in agricultural lands located within the County (Project No. G 0164), for an aggregate purchase price of not more than for \$16,947,400, plus interest thereon; providing that the County's obligation to pay the purchase price under and interest on such agreements shall be a general obligation of the County made upon its full faith and credit; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with the portion of the transfer tax imposed on transfers of real property in Howard County which is dedicated to agricultural land preservation and other available funds, to provide for the payment of the purchase price under and interest on any agreements so entered into; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith
12. **CR89-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving the Capital Program for Howard County for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 and the Extended Capital Program for Fiscal Years 2032 through 2035
13. **CR90-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget for the Howard Community College and indicating appropriations for major functional categories
14. **CR91-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Howard County Library System and indicating appropriations for object classes
  - a. Gabriela Perez - Howard County Library Workers United, called to speak.

15. **CR92-2025** - A RESOLUTION setting forth the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget for the Howard County Board of Education
  - a. Laurie Ramey - PTA Council of Howard County, called to speak.
  - b. Glenda Robertson - President, AFSCME Local 1899, called to speak.
  - c. Cat Carter, called to speak.
  - d. Anthony DeBella, called to speak.
  - e. Ryan Powers, called to speak.
16. **CR93-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Howard County Health Department and indicating appropriations for object classes
17. **CR94-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules for charges pertaining to the Metropolitan District, to water and sewer service, and to shared sewage disposal facilities
18. **CR95-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees for the functions regulated by the Department of Public Works
19. **CR96-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees, fines and charges for functions regulated by the Howard County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits
20. **CR97-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees and charges for functions regulated or administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning
21. **CR98-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees and rates for functions regulated and administered by the Department of Police
22. **CR99-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fines and penalties for violations of and administrative costs related to enforcement of Howard County's parking laws, including administrative handling fees for parking citations and citations under the automated red-light enforcement program
23. **CR100-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving fee and rate schedules for: (1) Applying for approval of an industrial development revenue bond or MIDFA bond or loan; (2) Solicitor and Peddler Identification Card; (3) Weekend Prisoners - Room and board; (4) Prisoner - Health care provider fee; (5) Participation in work release program; (6) Participation in home detention program; (7) Marriage license fee charge for funding of domestic violence programs; (8) Annual registration of trespass towing companies and maximum rates to be charged by trespass towing services; (9) Fee and specifications for transcripts of administrative proceedings; and (10) Reproduction of public records
24. **CR101-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting schedules for various charges related to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee
25. **CR102-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting fee schedules for functions of the Health Department
26. **CR103-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting a Schedule of Fees for inspections conducted by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
27. **CR104-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting a schedule of fees for functions regulated by the Department of Finance

28. **CR105-2025** - A RESOLUTION approving a Reimbursement Schedule for the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Program
29. **CR106-2025** - A RESOLUTION levying a tax on certain admissions and amusements, establishing classes of admissions and amusements, setting tax rates on different classes, and providing for certain exemptions from the tax

***CR107-2025 and CR110-2025 were read and testified on together***

30. **CR107-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting the schedule of rates for the Building Excise Tax
31. **CR110-2025** - A RESOLUTION setting the fee-in-lieu rate for moderate income housing
- a. Lisa Markowitz - Howard County Citizens Association, called to speak.
32. **CR108-2025** - A RESOLUTION levying a fire and rescue tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 and setting the tax rate for the fire and rescue tax
33. **CR109-2025** - A RESOLUTION levying a property tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; setting the tax rates for property; and providing for the collection of the property tax
34. **CR111-2025** - A RESOLUTION adopting the Transfer Tax, the tax on every instrument of writing conveying title to real or leasehold property offered for a record and recorded in Howard County with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and providing for certain exemptions from the tax
35. **CR112-2025** - A RESOLUTION establishing a recordation tax rate on instruments of writing that are recorded with the Clerk of the Circuit Court
36. **CB45-2025** - AN ACT to modify the restriction on the use of excess surplus revenue pursuant to Section 615B of the Howard County Charter in order to use excess surplus revenue from prior years to further support the Operating Budget request of the Board of Education in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget; providing that this act shall be temporary and shall expire by June 30, 2026; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet an immediate emergency affecting public health, safety or welfare
- a. Brook Mamo, Office of the Budget, called to speak.
  - b. Benjamin Schmitt - President, Howard County Education Association, called to speak.
  - c. Cat Carter, called to speak.

Adjourned at 9:01 PM

Visit the Council's website (<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>) to view legislation, send written testimony, and sign-up electronically to testify at public hearings.

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001