

ARTICLE ____
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

X01. Nature of This Article

The provisions of this Article relate to the transition from the commissioner form of government to the form of government provided by this Charter. Whenever the provisions of this Article are inconsistent with the previous provisions of this Charter, the provisions of this Article shall control.

X02. Time Certain Articles Become Effective

Except as expressly provided in this Article, the provisions of this Charter shall become operative at noon on the date the first County Executive and County Council, elected pursuant to this Charter, take office, Tuesday, December 8, 2026.

X03First Election

(a) In order to provide for the election of the first Executive in November 2026, Section 403 {Election}, Section 404 {Term of Office} and Section 405 {Qualifications} shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

(b) In order to provide for the election of the first members of the Council in November 2026, Section 204 {Election}, Section 205 {Qualifications} and Section 206 {Term of Office} shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

X04. Existing Laws

(a) The public local laws of the County and all rules, regulations, resolutions, and ordinances enacted by the County Commissioners in force on the Effective Date of the Charter shall continue in full force until repealed or amended. To the extent that any of the public local laws of the County or rules, regulations, resolutions, or ordinances, or any parts thereof, are inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, they are repealed.

(b) The provisions of the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as they relate to planning and zoning authority, stand adopted on the effective date of the Charter to the extent they are not repealed by the provisions of this Charter and shall remain in effect until repealed, amended, or superseded.

X05. Reference in State Constitution and Laws to County Commissioners

All references in the Constitution and laws of the State of Maryland to the Charles County Commissioners or to the Board of County Commissioners shall be construed, at the Effective Date of the

Charter, to refer to the Council and/or the County Executive whenever the construction would be reasonable.

X06. Existing Officers and Employees

All employees of the Government holding office at the Effective Date of the Charter shall continue to be employed at their existing compensation, subject, however, to the provisions of any relevant personnel policies, laws, rules, or regulations. Provisions relating to the qualifications for the appointed offices provided in this Charter shall become effective whenever vacancies occur in the appointed offices after the Effective Date of the Charter.

X07. Existing Members of Boards and Commissions

The members of all boards and commissions holding office at the Effective Date of the Charter shall continue to hold the same office until completion of their terms of office, unless removed in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.

X08. Office of County Commissioner Abolished

At the Effective Date of the Charter, the Office of County Commissioner shall cease to exist and all reference to the Office and the Board of County Commissioners in the Maryland Constitution or in any law, ordinance, rule, or regulation shall be construed to refer to the Office of Council Member or the Council and/or the Office of the County Executive or the County Executive whenever the construction would be reasonable.

X09. Publication of Council Rules

Pursuant to Section 304(e) of this Charter, the Council shall adopt and publish its rules of legislative procedure on the County website within 90 days of the Charter's Effective Date.

X10. Transition Commission for Planning and Growth Management

- A. In advance of the Charter going into effect pursuant to section XXX, by September XX, 2025, the Charles County Board of Commissioners shall appoint a Transition Commission for the purposes of:
- 1) evaluating the structure, performance, and effectiveness of the current Department of Planning and Growth Management or equivalent;
 - 2) selecting an independent consultant to evaluate the department; and
 - 3) providing recommendations to the elected Charles County Executive and Council as described in sections XXX and XXX.

- B. The transition Committee consists of [nine] members who shall include:
- 1) one member of a Charles County-based business, commerce, or trade membership organization;
 - 2) one member of the Charles County Farm Bureau;
 - 3) a representative of homeowner associations, civic associations, or other organization that serves the interest of a number and variety of homeowner groups;
 - 4) a representative from a Charles County or Southern Maryland-based conservation organization;
 - 5) a resident from each of the four Council districts; and
 - 6) the Director of the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management or a designee within the Department;
- C. Once appointed, the Transition Commission's duties include:
- 1) Participating in the selection of an independent consultant to review the department;
 - 2) Holding a minimum of four district-based public meetings that solicit community feedback and dialogue on the organization, operations, and performance of the department;
 - 3) Receiving, publishing, reviewing, and soliciting public feedback on the independent consultant's findings, which may include additional public meetings;
 - 4) Producing a formal public response to the consultant recommendations that may include majority and minority views and additional recommendations, if appropriate; and
 - 5) Presenting the package of recommendations and viewpoints to the Charles County Council as defined in section XXX.
- D. Once the Transition Commission is appointed and formed, Charles County government shall solicit an independent consultant with expertise in planning, zoning, and permitting issues to review the Department of Planning and Growth Management for any recommendations that substantially improves the organization, mission-based outcomes, and engagement with stakeholders and the public at large. Those recommendations may include a range of policies from comprehensive restructuring to changes to internal administrative processes and reporting.

Charles County government shall create a Request for Proposals of an appropriate budgetary amount to secure qualified proposals for the independent review. A subcommittee of the Transition Commission will participate in and provide recommendations for the selection of the qualified bidder as a part of the County's internal selection process. The Transition subcommittee shall

include the Committee's representatives from the business or commerce organization, the Charles County Farm Bureau, the residential organization, the conservation organization, and the Department of Planning and Growth Management.

- E. The Transition Commission must complete the comprehensive report of the combined consultant and Commission recommendations by November 30, 2026. Once completed and made publicly available, the newly elected County Council shall hold a public meeting to receive, review, and discuss the recommendations with representatives of the Commission and the current acting or appointed department head or designee within 60 days after taking office pursuant to section XXX