

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS 2025

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Outlook

NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Tue 4/1/2025 12:23 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 3896853

IP Address: 96.231.123.38

Submission Date: 04/01/2025 12:23

Survey Time: 28 minutes, 29 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Carlos Childs

Contact Person Email

Contact Person Phone

Contact Person Address

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

This legislative proposal would allow Charles County residents to petition voters to put forward local legislation on a general election ballot in the form of a ballot initiative.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

N/A

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Many residents put forward great policy ideas and local legislative proposals, however they do not move forward. We have seen legislation die, with or without reason, even though a large number of residents supported the legislation. This makes people

feel as if they have no power when it comes to their local democratic process.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

This proposal would solve the problem by giving residents the ability to petition Charles County voters to put a local law on a general election ballot. Which would not only increase voter participation, but also empower residents to take an active role in their local government and allow residents to directly decide on what legislation they want to see put in place.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

N/A

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

This legislative proposal would allow residents to petition 5% of Charles County registered voters to put a ballot initiative on a general election ballot. A petition shall include a proposed law pursuant to Charles County, with the following exemptions; - A law imposing a tax; - A law appropriating government funds; - A law redistricting commissioner districts; - A law affecting Commissioner salaries or benefits; - A law affecting County government staff positions or hiring. All petitions shall be compliant with the manner prescribed by the Maryland constitution. Once the 5% threshold has been reached and approved by the Charles County Board of Elections. The Commissioner may vote to pass the legislation, without adding amendments, or vote in the affirmative, without adding amendments, to put the proposed law on the next regularly scheduled general election ballot for a full vote by all Charles County voters. If the ballot initiative fails no action is taken. If the ballot initiative is approved by voters, the law shall take effect 30 days after the certification of the general election results. A downloadable copy of blank petition forms shall be posted on the Charles County government website. If this legislative proposal is approved by the Board of Commissioners it shall be put on the 2026 general election ballot for a vote by Charles County voters.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Ballot Initiative legislative proposal .pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

Ballot Initiative legislative proposal summary:

- Allow residents to petition 5% of Charles County registered voters to put a ballot initiative on a general election ballot.
 - A petition shall include a proposed law pursuant to Charles County, with the following exemptions:
 - A law imposing a tax;
 - A law appropriating government funds;
 - A law redistricting commissioner districts;
 - A law affecting Commissioner salaries or benefits;
 - A law affecting County government staff positions or hiring.
 - All petitions shall be compliant with the manner prescribed by the Maryland constitution.
 - Once the 5% threshold has been reached and approved by the Charles County Board of Elections. The Commissioner may vote to pass the legislation or vote in the affirmative to put the proposed law on the next regularly scheduled general election ballot for a full vote by all Charles County voters.
- If the ballot initiative fails no action is taken
- If the ballot initiative is approved by voters, the law shall take effect 30 days after the certification of the general election results.
- A downloadable copy of blank petition forms shall be posted on the Charles County government website.

If this legislative proposal is approved by the Board of Commissioners it shall be put on the 2026 general election ballot for a vote by Charles County voters.

***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Wed 4/2/2025 6:38 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 3901172

IP Address: 96.231.123.38

Submission Date: 04/02/2025 6:38

Survey Time: 56 minutes, 26 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

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Contact Person Name

Carlos Childs

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

In the instance of a vacancy within the Board of Commissioners, there will be a special election for their replacement.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

N/A

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Currently if a Commissioner seat is vacated during a term the Central Committee, associated with the party of the Commissioner who represented the seat before the vacancy, holds an appointment process. This process does not have to include public input,

forums, or voting by residents. It allows a small group of 16 people to decide who represents a district or county at-large in the Commissioner seat.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

The legislative proposal would establish a special election process that would allow residents of the respective district or county at-large to vote for someone to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

N/A

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

If a Commissioner vacates their office during a term a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy. - A special election for Commissioner shall be held within 180 days after a vacancy. - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a presidential general election, the election to fill the vacancy shall be added to the general election ballot. - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a gubernatorial primary election, the Central Committee representing the political party of the vacated Commissioner shall appoint someone, within 60 days, to serve the remainder of the term. - For the purpose of term limits, the appointed Commissioner, shall be seen as serving one term. - Any person who has filed as a candidate for the district representing the vacated Commissioner shall be prohibited from being appointed.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Special Elections legislative proposal.pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

Special Election legislative proposal summary:

- If a Commissioner vacates their office during a term a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.
 - A special election for Commissioner shall be held within 180 days after a vacancy.
 - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a presidential general election, the election to fill the vacancy shall be added to the general election ballot.
 - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a gubernatorial primary election, the Central Committee representing the political party of the vacated Commissioner shall appoint someone, within 60 days, to serve the remainder of the term.
 - For the purpose of term limits, the appointed Commissioner, shall be seen as serving one term
 - Any person who has filed as a candidate for the district representing the vacated Commissioner shall be prohibited from being appointed.

NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Tue 4/15/2025 6:32 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 3932057

IP Address: 100.15.27.202

Submission Date: 04/15/2025 6:32

Survey Time: 12 minutes, 28 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

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Contact Person Name

Durrell Gray

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

This proposal aims to establish term limits for County Commissioners in Charles County, Maryland.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Chapter 27 Commissioners, County

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Term limits address the problem of entrenched political power by ensuring regular turnover in elected office. Without limits, long-term incumbents can become disconnected from voters, resistant to change, and vulnerable to corruption and cronyism. This discourages new voices from entering public service and can lead to voter apathy and stagnation in government. Term limits

promote accountability, reduce special interest influence, and create space for fresh ideas and leadership that better reflect the evolving needs of the community.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

This proposal addresses the problem of entrenched political power and lack of accountability by establishing clear term limits for Charles County Commissioners. By capping the number of terms any one person can serve, it ensures regular turnover and prevents the concentration of power in the hands of a few officials. This creates opportunities for new leaders with fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and stronger ties to the community to step forward and serve. The proposal promotes government transparency and responsiveness by eliminating the “career politician” dynamic that often leads to complacency, political favoritism, and resistance to change. With term limits in place, commissioners are more likely to focus on effective governance and the public good rather than political survival or catering to entrenched interests. Additionally, term limits level the playing field for elections. They reduce the built-in advantages of incumbency, such as name recognition, donor networks, and political influencemaking it easier for grassroots candidates and everyday residents to run viable campaigns. This enhances citizen engagement and helps restore public confidence in local government by showing that leadership positions are accessible and accountable. Ultimately, this proposal ensures that Charles County government stays dynamic, representative, and community-focused, while reinforcing the principle that no one should hold power indefinitely.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

I believe the democratic Central committee, the Charles County NAACP, The League of Women Voters and several other local organizations would support this proposal

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – TERM LIMITS FOR the purpose of establishing term limits for County Commissioners in Charles County, Maryland, to promote accountability, transparency, and fresh leadership by limiting any individual to two total terms as a Commissioner, regardless of whether such terms were served consecutively or non-consecutively, and applying the limitation retroactively to include terms already served. SECTION 1. BE IT PROPOSED THAT the Laws of Charles County, Maryland be amended to add a new section to read as follows: §27-1B. TERM LIMITS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS A. TERM LIMITS 1. No person may serve more than two (2) terms as a County Commissioner, regardless of whether the terms are served consecutively or non-consecutively. 2. Any person who has already served two (2) or more terms as a County Commissioner prior to the adoption of this section shall be ineligible to run for or be appointed to the office of County Commissioner in any future election or appointment. B. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION 1. For the purpose of this section, all prior terms served — whether elected, appointed, partial, or full — shall be counted toward the two-term limit. 2. This section shall apply retroactively to all individuals who have served in the capacity of County Commissioner prior to the effective date of this proposal. C. ENFORCEMENT 1. The Charles County Board of Elections shall enforce this provision by verifying the eligibility of all candidates filing to run for County Commissioner. 2. If a person is determined to be ineligible under this section, they shall not be certified as a candidate or be permitted to appear on any ballot for County Commissioner. SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY If any provision of this Proposal is held invalid for any reason, the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect. SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE This proposal shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after adoption into law.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Charles County Term Limits Proposal.docx](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND 2025 Legislative Session

Proposal No. 2025-__

Chapter No. 27-1B

Introduced by Durrell Gray

Date of Introduction _____

PROPOSAL

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – TERM LIMITS

FOR the purpose of establishing term limits for County Commissioners in Charles County, Maryland, to promote accountability, transparency, and fresh leadership by limiting any individual to two total terms as a Commissioner, regardless of whether such terms were served consecutively or non-consecutively, and applying the limitation retroactively to include terms already served.

SECTION 1. BE IT PROPOSED THAT the Laws of Charles County, Maryland be amended to add a new section to read as follows:

§27-1B. TERM LIMITS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A. TERM LIMITS

1. No person may serve more than two (2) terms as a County Commissioner, regardless of whether the terms are served consecutively or non-consecutively.
2. Any person who has already served two (2) or more terms as a County Commissioner prior to the adoption of this section shall be ineligible to run for or be appointed to the office of County Commissioner in any future election or appointment.

B. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION

1. For the purpose of this section, all prior terms served — whether elected, appointed, partial, or full — shall be counted toward the two-term limit.

2. This section shall apply retroactively to all individuals who have served in the capacity of County Commissioner prior to the effective date of this proposal.

C. ENFORCEMENT

1. The Charles County Board of Elections shall enforce this provision by verifying the eligibility of all candidates filing to run for County Commissioner.
2. If a person is determined to be ineligible under this section, they shall not be certified as a candidate or be permitted to appear on any ballot for County Commissioner.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Proposal is held invalid for any reason, the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This proposal shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after adoption into law.

***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Mon 4/21/2025 3:35 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 3943491

IP Address: 167.102.160.10

Submission Date: 04/21/2025 3:35

Survey Time: 22 minutes, 23 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

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Contact Person Name

Terrah Dews

Contact Person Email

Dewst@CharlesCountyMD.gov

Contact Person Phone

(301) 645-0555 ext. 0541

Contact Person Address

200 Baltimore Street
LaPlata, Maryland 20646

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Revise Chapter 85 of the Charles County Code to expand the scope of nuisance enforcement to include commercial properties and abandoned/bank owned properties. Incorporate civil penalties for daily violations of the Nuisance Code.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Chapter 85 - Nuisances; Public Health

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

The current Code Section 85 is limited to enforcement of nuisance conditions on residential property.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Revising Section 85 would permit the County to address nuisance conditions on commercial and abandoned properties. The incorporation of civil penalties would incentivize property owners to abate nuisances on their properties in a timely manner.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

County Department of Planning and Growth Management

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

Draft language will be subsequently provided.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

Thank you,

Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

Revise Chapter 85 - Nuisance of the Charles County Code

Submission #: 3943491

IP Address: 167.102.160.10

Submission Date: 04/21/2025 3:35 PM

Contact Person Name: Terrah Dews

Contact Person Email: Dewst@CharlesCountyMD.gov

Contact Person Phone: (301) 645-0555 ext. 0541

Contact Person Address: 200 Baltimore Street, LaPlata, Maryland 20646

Proposed Revision

- Revise Chapter 85 of the Charles County Code to expand the scope of nuisance enforcement to include commercial properties and abandoned/bank owned properties.
- Incorporate inspection fees per each inspection and assess the nuisance penalty if the nuisance has not been abated on the scheduled compliance date. However, all fees will be held in abeyance for the first 30 days and only assessed if nuisance conditions have not been abated.
- Remove Section 85-1 (C)

"Landowners' association" means:

(1) A nonprofit association, corporation, or other organization that is:

- (I) Comprised of at least two landowners or homeowners in an election district within which a nuisance is located;
- (II) Operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare and general neighborhood improvement and enhancement; and
- (III) Exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

(2) A nonprofit association, corporation, or other organization that is:

- (I) Comprised of at least two landowners or homeowners in a contiguous community that is defined by specific geographic boundaries and a substantial portion of which is within an election district within which a nuisance is located; and
- (II) Operated for the promotion of the welfare, improvement and enhancement of that community.

- Revise Section 85-3(A) as follows:

Any person, firm or corporation, either as owner, lessee, occupant or otherwise who sends a written complaint to the County Commissioners or their designee charging that any of the conditions under § 85-2 of this chapter exist on commercial, residential, or improved commercial or residential property, and become a nuisance or affect the public health and

comfort of residents of the County, the County Commissioners or their designee shall issue a complaint to the owner of the commercial residential property or improved commercial residential property. The complaint shall include the following:

- (1)** Stating the charges alleged;
- (2)** Setting a thirty-day deadline for abatement of alleged charges; and
- (3)** Containing a notice that a hearing will be held before the Nuisance Abatement Board not less than four days nor more than thirty days after the expiration of the abatement deadline.

- Revise Section 85-4(A)(2) to remove the requirement to send notice by certified return receipt requested postal mail
- Revise Section 85-4(B) to remove the requirement to send notice by certified return receipt requested postal mail
- Revise Section 85-9(A) as follows:

If an owner of a property affected by an order under § **85-3** of this chapter fails to implement said order and the County incurs costs associated with the implementation of the order, then the property owner shall pay a nuisance enforcement fee in addition to any costs associated under § **85-6** of this chapter. This nuisance enforcement fee shall be set by the Charles County Commissioners as it appears in the Charles County Approved Fees and Charges Schedule.

Submission # 3946175
IP Address 73.86.175.250
Submission Recorded On 04/22/2025 2:13 PM
Time to Take Survey 23 minutes, 6 seconds

Page 1

Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information
301-645-0555

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Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

*** Contact Person Name** 

William Smith

Contact Person Email

smithb@ccvfireems.org

Contact Person Phone



*** Contact Person Address**

109 LA GRANGE AVE
103
LA PLATA MD 20646-9503

*** Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)**

A salary cap was inserted by the Charles County Delegation at the last minute in 2023.

*

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

not certain of any impacts

*** Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)**

We would appreciate removing the salary cap and provide a \$500.00 increase capped at \$2,500.00 in the year 2028

*** Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).**

We would appreciate removing the salary cap and provide a \$500.00 increase capped at \$2,500.00 in the year 2028

*** Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).**

We have the support of you 1200 volunteer Fire/EMS members

*** Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).**

Simply removing salary cap or keeping it at \$250,000

Other Information To Note

The property tax incentive is to maintain our senior volunteers that for numerous situations have become less active and is designed to give these "property owners" a means to offset the current economic situation we all endure at this present time. And yes, we do have younger volunteer families here in Charles County that do have "starter homes" and this incentive would assist these members as well. , this legislation has been endorsed for two years by our county commissioners, it costs the state nothing, we would ask the Charles County Delegation to endorse this small benefit for our volunteer Fire/EMS members, send it back to our county and allow our county officials to enact this legislation. And finally, under the leadership of State Senator Michael Jackson our volunteer friends in Calvert County along with other counties across the state have enjoyed this same legislation and with much success, we would ask the delegation; "what's so different about the Charles County Volunteers"? These same volunteers have saved millions upon millions of dollars providing very good service to the residence and guest of our county.

Attachment(s) 

hb0947.pdf

HOUSE BILL 947

Q2

3lr1969
CF SB 521

By: Charles County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County – Property Tax – Credit for Volunteer Emergency Responders**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Charles County to grant, by law, a
4 tax credit against the property tax imposed on the owner-occupied residence of
5 certain emergency responders and their surviving spouses; and generally relating to
6 a property tax credit in Charles County for emergency responders and their
7 surviving spouses.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Tax – Property

10 Section 9-310(l)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 Article – Tax – Property

16 9-310.

17 (L) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “EMERGENCY RESPONDER” MEANS AN
18 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ACTIVE OR RETIRED VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF A FIRE,
19 RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY IN CHARLES COUNTY.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



10 (I) THE AMOUNT AND DURATION OF THE TAX CREDIT UNDER
11 THIS SUBSECTION;

12 (II) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CREDIT; AND

13 (III) ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE
14 CREDIT.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
16 1, 2023, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.