

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 9, 2025 (Legislative Day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in person at 9:01 a.m. with the following people in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner  
Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President, County Commissioner  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner  
Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D., County Commissioner  
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Call to Order/Pledge**

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation** Pastor James Cogman, Metropolitan United Methodist Church

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present in person.

**Charles County Proclamations for September**

2025-52 National Preparedness Month  
2025-53 National Hispanic Heritage Month  
2025-54 National Recovery Month  
2025-55 National Suicide Prevention Month  
2025-56 Direct Support Professionals Week  
2025-57 Constitution Week  
2025-58 Diaper Need Awareness Week  
2025-59 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Day  
2025-60 African Heritage Month

The Commissioners were joined by staff from the Charles County Department of Emergency Services to receive proclamation 2025-52 National Preparedness Month; staff from the Charles County Public Schools, Charles County State's Attorney Office, and residents of Hispanic Heritage to receive proclamation 2025-53 National Hispanic Heritage Month; members from the Charles County Department of Health to receive proclamation 2025-54 National Recovery Month; staff from Spring Dell to receive proclamation 2025-56 Direct Support Professionals Week; members from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) to receive proclamation 2025-57 Constitution Week; members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to receive proclamation 2025-59 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Day; and residents, staff and business owners of African Heritage to receive proclamation 2025-60 African Heritage Month.

**Recognition: Employee Length of Service Second Quarter (April -June, 2025)**

The Commissioners recognized employees' years of service for April through June 2025.

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**Recognition Charles County Athletes Who Qualified for the 2025 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics and the AAU National Coach of the Year and Team of the Year**

The Commissioners recognized the youth team members from the Xceleration Nation Track Club, Southern Sprinters Club, and the Charles County Elite Track and Field Club for qualifying for the 2025 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics. The Commissioners also recognized Coach Pamela Muhammad, Charles County Elite Track and Field Club, for being named the 2025 AAU National Coach of the Year and the Southern Sprinters Club as the 2025 AAU Team of the Year.

*\*Break 10:04 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*

*The Commissioners continued the session in a hybrid format.*

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present in person.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Collins requested a moment of silence for the passing of Mrs. Denise Alicia Chapman-Barnes for her service empowering students in Charles County for over forty (40) years.

Commissioner Bowling commented on the loss of Mrs. Barnes as well as the loss of former Waldorf VFD Fire Chief Dan Stevens; and take time to remember 9-11 anniversary and the dedicated service of public safety personnel.

Commissioner Stewart echoed Commissioner Bowling's comments and the importance to recognize and remember 9-11.

Commissioner Patterson expressed condolences for the loss of Mrs. Barnes; and he talked about the County's Concert series and the Blue Crabs Stadium and work of the Charles County Sheriff's Office for their help in this event.

**Approval of the Minutes of July 22, 2025**

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of July 22, 2025.

**Announcement**

Next Scheduled Session(s): September 16-17, 2025.

Notice of Attendance Summaries were listed on the agenda.

**Approval Items**

Budget Amendment(s) and Budget Transfer(s):

FY2026 Budget Amendment Increase #520 Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Drug Forfeiture Training Budget

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A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Budget Amendment Increase #520 for forty-six thousand dollars (\$46,000.00).

**Approval: FY2027 Budget Calendars**

(Ms. Samantha Chiriaco, Chief of Budget, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the FY2027 Budget Calendars.

**Letter: Deer Cooperator Permit Letter-Schlager Farms**

(Mr. Russell Schlager, Schlager Farm and Ms. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, Charles County)

A motion was made Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this letter.

Commissioner Stewart also stated that she is having a meeting on September 24, 2025 at the Waldorf Senior and Recreation Center that would facilitate providing this information to the public.

**Letter of Support: Jude House Grant Application to the Maryland Historical Trust for Roof Repairs/Replacement**

(Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator)

A motion was made Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this letter of support.

\*At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Coates left session.

**Request to Add the Historic Preservation Commission to List of Eligible Boards and Commissions for Community Support Funds**

(Mr. Cal Carpenter, Planner I, Ms. Esther Read, Archaeologist, Department of Planning and Growth Management)

A motion was made Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve adding the Historic Preservation Commission to the list of eligible Boards for Community Support Funds.

\*Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.

**Briefing and Request to Schedule the Public Hearing: Charles County Government 2025 Bond Issue**

Mr. Jacob Dyer, Director, and Ms. Samantha Chiriaco, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, reviewed the dates for meeting with the rating agencies, bond sale and bond closing. The proposed total Bond Size is seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000.00) which will cover projects for water and sewer, Board of Education and new school construction, the College of Southern Maryland, roads, environmental projects, and government facilities and parks. Bond Terms for fifteen (15) year bonds is forty-six (\$46.0) million dollars for eligible General Government, Board of Education, Parks, Roads, Water and Sewer, and Environmental Resources projects; ten (10) year

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bond is seven (\$7.0) million dollars for School Excise Tax Bonds for eligible Board of Education projects and thirty (30) year bond is twenty-two (\$22.0) million dollars for eligible Water, Sewer and Watershed projects.

A motion was made Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to schedule the public hearing on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Building at 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD to be held hybrid, in-person and virtually. *\*Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Legislative Update: Impact of Federal Executive Orders and Federal Budget**

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator Mr. Joseph Green, Ms. Michelle Goodwin, and Ms. Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez, G.S. Proctor & Associates, Inc., joined the Commissioners to discuss economic development priorities in support of the Western Technology Corridor linking Federal missions, academic research, and private enterprise. Key initiatives include Energetics Technology Center (ETC), Route 210 Transportation Study, United States Bomb Technicians Association (USBTA), College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Velocity Center, and the Military Alliance Council (MAC). Milestones include the future launch of the United States Hazmat Technology Association under the umbrella of the United States Bomb Technicians Association, which has its headquarters at the Maryland Technology Center in Indian Head. Next steps will include working with the Economic Development Department, County leadership and agency partners to align priorities with Federal and State of Maryland funding opportunities.

**Closed Session**

At 11:20 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, and passed with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss a personnel matter. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep personnel matters confidential.

*\*Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At about 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(1) Personnel**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Deborah Hall, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto, Alexis Blackwell, Kevin Karpinski and Matthew McCloskey.

Outside Council reviewed potential next steps related to this personnel matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, and Patterson present, voting in favor to move forward *as discussed*, and receive a follow up on the process. *Commissioner Collins was opposed.* *\*Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.* A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yeas; Commissioner Stewart-yes; Commissioner Patterson-yes; Commissioner Collins-no. The motion passed three (3) to one (1).

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At about 12:12 p.m., motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to end this closed session. \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

At about 3:30 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins were present in person. Commissioner Stewart was present virtually.

**Update: Goals and Objectives- Quality of Life**

Ms. Dina Barclay Director, Department of Community Services; Mr. Jason Groth, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management; and Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, Mr. Ju'Wann, Chief of Recreation, Ms. Ashley Chenault, Chief of Tourism, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the Goal of Quality of Life which covers housing, programs and services, transportation and recreations and tourism. The presentation reviewed data directly from the Charles County Website found under Charles County Commissioners, Goals and Objectives. This is a newly created site will provide up to date data for residents to review on all the County's Goals and Objectives.

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Closed Session**

At 4:29 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(3)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss one (1) contract renewal; review and receive updates on two (2) potential land acquisitions. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, strategies, and negotiations confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At about 4:41 p.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(3)(7) Potential Property Acquisition**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto, Sarah Guy, Victoria Rickett, and Marc Potter.

Staff reviewed the potential land acquisition.

The Commissioners provided direction on the next steps.

**3-305(b)(3)(7) Land Acquisition: Countywide Encroachment**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto, Sarah Guy, Victoria Rickett, and Marc Potter.

Staff reviewed the potential process related to countywide encroachment.

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The Commissioners provided direction on the next steps.

**3-305(b)(7) Contract Renewal**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto.

Staff reviewed the proposed contract for renewal.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus on this contract renewal. Official action will take place on September 16, 2025 agenda under Approval items.

At about 5:42 p.m., motion was made Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this closed session.

At about 6:12 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins were present in person.  
*\*Commissioner Stewart was present virtually.*

**Public Hearing: 2026 Preliminary State Legislative Proposal**

The Commissioners conducted an in person then virtual public hearing on the 2026 Preliminary State Legislative Proposals. The Commissioners were joined by Delegate Debra Davis, Delegate Edith Patterson, Delegate Kevin Harris; Senator Arthur Ellis, and Senator Michael Jackson, Charles County State Delegation; and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator, to hear legislative proposals for the 2026 Preliminary State Legislative Session. Commissioner Collins explained that no action would be taken tonight. The follow up work session will be scheduled on September 23, 2025.

- A proposal to amend the Maryland Homeowners Association Act.  
**Proposed by: Gloria Sawyers**
- A proposal for special elections to fill vacancies for certain elected offices.  
**Proposed by: Carlos Childs**
- A proposal concerning predatory activities related to veteran claims.  
**Proposed by: Mike Moses**
- A proposal concerning youth programming.  
**Proposed by: Korderrius Richmond**
- A proposal to implement attendance requirements for the Board of Commissioners.  
**Proposed by: Joseph Mank**
- A proposal to increase the higher education scholarship for the student member of the Board of Education.  
**Proposed by: Charles County Board of Education**

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- A proposal to include vehicle dealers, rental and lease companies as owners subject to automated speed and traffic control enforcement.  
**Proposed by: Charles County Sheriff's Office**
- A proposal to require proof of identification in connection with certain crimes  
**Proposed by: Charles County Sheriff's Office**

*\*At about 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Stewart left session.*

- A proposal to implement a plastic bag fee  
**Proposed by: Derrick Terry**
- A proposal to prohibit certain organizations from receiving grant funds from the Charles County Charitable Trust.  
**Proposed by: Derrick Terry**
- A proposal to amend the Ethics Code to require certain information be provided by the Ethics Commission.  
**Proposed by: Derrick Terry**
- A proposal to require training for common ownership community board members.  
**Proposed by: Christopher Bullock**
- A proposal to require candidates for common ownership community boards certify certain assessment and violation information.  
**Proposed by: Christopher Bullock**
- A proposal to create an Office of Community Relations to assist with issues related to common ownership communities.  
**Proposed by: Christopher Bullock**
- A proposal to expand agritourism to include breweries.  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Coates**
- A proposal to provide housing relief for seniors through mandated rent stabilization  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**
- A proposal for state funding to support Waldorf redevelopment to include improving walkability of the Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor (WURC)  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**
- A proposal to commit state resources to the development of a ferry service connecting Indian Head to National Harbor and Alexandria, VA.  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**
- A proposal seeking state funding to create real-time crime centers.  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**

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- A proposal seeking state funding to assist with the creation of a housing trust fund.  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**
- A proposal to fund implementation of the Blue Zone Assessment, Readiness and Feasibility Assessment.  
**Proposed by: Commissioner Collins**

There was one (1) person who provided public comments in person.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to keep the public record open until September 19, 2025. *\*Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to close this public hearing. *\*Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

At 8:48 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn. *\*Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

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Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President