

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY 2022-09**

**RESOLUTION NO. 29-2022**

**Title of Resolution:** Charter Amendment – Redistricting Commission

**Synopsis:** A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 214, Redistricting, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the deadline for Council to establish Redistricting Commission shall be within thirty days after receipt of census data; and to specify that current local central committee members are ineligible to be members of the Redistricting Commission. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

**Introduced by:** Council President on behalf of the County Council

**Introduced and ordered posted on:** April 19, 2022

**Public hearing scheduled on:** May 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**Scheduled for consideration on:** June 7, 2022

By:   
Council Manager

Notice and title of Resolution having been posted on April 19, 2022 at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton and having been published according to the Charter on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022, a public hearing was held on May 17, 2022, and concluded on May 17, 2022.

By:   
Council Manager

**Explanation:** CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATE LANGUAGE ADDED TO EXISTING DOCUMENT  
~~Strike through~~ indicates language deleted from existing document  
Underlining indicates language added to document by amendment.  
~~Double Strike through~~ indicates language stricken from document by amendment

1           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter, the Charter  
2 may be amended by the procedures provided in Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution; and

3           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, amendments to  
4 any charter adopted by any County of this State under the provisions of this Article may be  
5 proposed by a resolution of the Council of the County, or by a petition signed by not less than  
6 20% of the registered voters of the City or County, provided, however, that in any case 10,000  
7 signatures shall be sufficient to complete a petition; and

8           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., §7-103(a)(iii) and §7-103(c)(3)(i) of the Election  
9 Law Article, the Attorney, designated to represent the county legislative body, shall prepare  
10 and certify, and submit to the State Board of Election, not later than August 5, 2022, the  
11 following information as required under §7-103(b) of the Election Law Article for each question  
12 to be voted on in the County: (1) a question number or letter as by the Election Board; (2) a  
13 brief designation of the type or source of the question; (3) a brief descriptive title in boldface  
14 type; (4) a condensed statement of the purpose of the question; and (5) the voting choices that  
15 the voter has; and

16           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and  
17 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the amendments shall be published by the  
18 President of the County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to the election in at  
19 least one newspaper published in said County; and

20           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and  
21 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, an amendment so proposed shall be submitted to  
22 the voters of the County at the next general or congressional election occurring after the  
23 passage of the resolution; and

24           **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and  
25 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, if at the election the majority of the votes cast for  
26 the amendment shall be in favor thereof, the amendment shall be adopted and become a part  
27 of the charter of the County from and after the thirtieth day after said election; and

28           **WHEREAS**, Article 2, County Council, Section 214, Redistricting, of the Cecil County  
29 Charter currently provides that:

30 “ (a) The Council shall appoint by resolution a Redistricting Commission not later than April 1  
31 of the year following each decennial census date. The central committee of each political party  
32 polling at least twenty-five percent of the total vote cast for the Executive at the last  
33 preceding general election shall nominate five persons to serve on the Commission. Each such  
34 list shall include one person who resides in each residency district. The Council shall appoint all  
35 such nominees as members of the Commission as well as one or two additional members of  
36 the Commission, as the case may be, to ensure that its total membership equals an odd  
37 number. The Council shall appoint the Chair of the Commission from among the Commission  
38 members. No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who holds elective  
39 office.

40 (b) By November 15 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, the  
41 Commission shall present to the Council a plan of residency districts, together with a report  
42 explaining it. Within thirty days of receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold  
43 a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after submission of the plan no other  
44 legislation reestablishing the boundaries of the residency districts has been enacted, the plan  
45 as submitted shall become law.

46 (c) Any residency district established in accordance with this section shall be compact,  
47 contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of  
48 geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries.

49 (d) An ordinance establishing residency districts shall be exempt from referendum.”; and

50 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and  
51 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, this Resolution proposes the following  
52 amendment to Article 2, County Council, Section 214, Redistricting, of the Cecil County Charter:  
53 “(a) The Council shall appoint by resolution a Redistricting Commission not later than **ONE**  
54 **MONTH AFTER RECEIVING THE OFFICIAL CENSUS POPULATION DATA FROM THE MARYLAND**  
55 **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING** ~~April 1~~ of the year following each decennial census date. The  
56 central committee of each political party polling at least twenty-five percent of the total vote  
57 cast for the Executive at the last preceding general election shall nominate five persons to  
58 serve on the Commission. Each such list shall include one person who resides in each residency

59 district. The Council shall appoint all such nominees as members of the Commission as well as  
60 one or two additional members of the Commission, as the case may be, to ensure that its total  
61 membership equals an odd number. The Council shall appoint the Chair of the Commission  
62 from among the Commission members. No person, **INCLUDING CURRENT LOCAL CENTRAL**  
63 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**, shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who holds  
64 elective office.

65 (b) By November 15 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, the  
66 Commission shall present to the Council a plan of residency districts, together with a report  
67 explaining it. Within thirty days of receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold  
68 a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after submission of the plan no other  
69 legislation reestablishing the boundaries of the residency districts has been enacted, the plan  
70 as submitted shall become law.

71 (c) Any residency district established in accordance with this section shall be compact,  
72 contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of  
73 geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries.

74 (d) An ordinance establishing residency districts shall be exempt from referendum.”; and

75 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL**  
76 **COUNTY, MARYLAND**, that the following amendment to Article 2, County Council, Section 214,  
77 Redistricting, of the Cecil County Charter, shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the  
78 next general or congressional election in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil  
79 County Charter and Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution:

80 “(a) The Council shall appoint by resolution a Redistricting Commission not later than **ONE**  
81 **MONTH AFTER RECEIVING THE OFFICIAL CENSUS POPULATION DATA FROM THE MARYLAND**  
82 **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING** ~~April 1~~ of the year following each decennial census date. The  
83 central committee of each political party polling at least twenty-five percent of the total vote  
84 cast for the Executive at the last preceding general election shall nominate five persons to  
85 serve on the Commission. Each such list shall include one person who resides in each residency  
86 district. The Council shall appoint all such nominees as members of the Commission as well as  
87 one or two additional members of the Commission, as the case may be, to ensure that its total

88 membership equals an odd number. The Council shall appoint the Chair of the Commission  
89 from among the Commission members. No person, **INCLUDING CURRENT LOCAL CENTRAL**  
90 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**, shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who holds  
91 elective office.

92 (b) By November 15 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, the  
93 Commission shall present to the Council a plan of residency districts, together with a report  
94 explaining it. Within thirty days of receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold  
95 a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after submission of the plan no other  
96 legislation reestablishing the boundaries of the residency districts has been enacted, the plan  
97 as submitted shall become law.

98 (c) Any residency district established in accordance with this section shall be compact,  
99 contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of  
100 geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries.

101 (d) An ordinance establishing residency districts shall be exempt from referendum.”; and

102 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**  
103 **MARYLAND**, that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., §7-103(a)(iii) and §7-103(c)(3)(i) of the Election  
104 Law Article, the Attorney, designated to represent the county legislative body, shall prepare,  
105 certify, and submit to the State Board of Election, not later than August 5, 2022, the following  
106 information as required under §7-103(b) of the Election Law Article: (1) a question number or  
107 letter as by the Election Board; (2) a brief designation of the type or source of the question; (3)  
108 a brief descriptive title in boldface type; (4) a condensed statement of the purpose of the  
109 question; and (5) the voting choices that the voter has.

110 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**  
111 **MARYLAND**, that pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A,  
112 §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the amendments shall be published by the President of the  
113 County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to the election in at least one  
114 newspaper published in said County.

115 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**  
116 **MARYLAND**, that pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A,

117 §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the aforementioned proposed amendment shall be submitted  
118 to the voters of the County at the next general or congressional election occurring after the  
119 passage of this Resolution.

120 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**  
121 **MARYLAND,** that in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and  
122 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, if at the election the majority of the votes cast for  
123 the aforementioned proposed amendment shall be in favor thereof, then the proposed  
124 amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the Charter of Cecil County from and after  
125 the thirtieth day after said election.

INTRODUCED: **April 19, 2022**

ADOPTED: **June 7, 2022**

  
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President of the Council

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Manager