

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY 2024-10**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2024

Title of Resolution: Charter Amendment – Term of Office – County Council

Synopsis: A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 206, Term of Office, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the County Council shall be limited to serve no more than 3 consecutive 4 year terms. 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 at the request of the County Council

Introduced and ordered posted on: June 4, 2024

Public hearing scheduled on: July 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Scheduled for consideration on: July 16, 2024

By: _____
Council Manager

Notice and title of Resolution having been posted on June 4, 2024 at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton and having been published according to the Charter on June 19, 2024 and June 26, 2024, a public hearing was held on July 2, 2024, and concluded on July 2, 2024.

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 1, 2024, 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 206, Term of Office, of the Cecil
29 County Charter currently provides that:

“A Council member shall hold office for a term beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December next following the election of the Council member and ending at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December in the fourth year thereafter, or until a successor is qualified” and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, this Resolution proposes the following amendment to Article 2, County Council, Section 206, Term of Office, of the Cecil County Charter:

(a) A Council member shall hold office for a term beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December next following the election of the Council member and ending at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December in the fourth year thereafter, or until a successor is qualified.

(b) STARTING IN 2028, A COUNCIL MEMBER MAY SERVE NO MORE THAN 3 CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS. A COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY MUST SERVE TWO OR MORE YEARS OF THAT TERM TO BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SERVED ONE FULL TERM. AN APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER WHO SERVES LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF THE TERM SHALL BE CONSIDERED NOT TO HAVE SERVED ONE FULL TERM.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the following amendment to Article 2, County Council, Section 206, Term of Office, of the Cecil County Charter, shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the next general or congressional election in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution:

(a) A Council member shall hold office for a term beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December next following the election of the Council member and ending at 12:00 noon on the first Monday of December in the fourth year thereafter, or until a successor is qualified.

(b) STARTING IN 2028, A COUNCIL MEMBER MAY SERVE NO MORE THAN 3 CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS. A COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY MUST SERVE TWO OR MORE YEARS OF THAT TERM TO BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SERVED ONE FULL TERM. AN APPOINTED COUNCIL

60 **MEMBER WHO SERVES LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF THE TERM SHALL BE**

61 **CONSIDERED NOT TO HAVE SERVED ONE FULL TERM.**

62 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL**

63 **COUNTY, MARYLAND,** that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., §7-103(a)(iii) and §7-103(c)(3)(i)

64 of the Election Law Article, the Attorney, designated to represent the county legislative

65 body, shall prepare, certify, and submit to the State Board of Election, not later than

66 August 1, 2024, the following information as required under §7-103(b) of the Election Law

67 Article: (1) a question number or letter as by the Election Board; (2) a brief designation of

68 the type or source of the question; (3) a brief descriptive title in boldface type; (4) a

69 condensed statement of the purpose of the question; and (5) the voting choices that the

70 voter has.

71 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**

72 **MARYLAND,** that pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A,

73 §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the amendments shall be published by the President of the

74 County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to the election in at least one

75 newspaper published in said County.

76 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**

77 **MARYLAND,** that pursuant to Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and Article XI-A,

78 §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the aforementioned proposed amendment shall be submitted

79 to the voters of the County at the next general or congressional election occurring after the

80 passage of this Resolution.

81 **AND BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**

82 **MARYLAND,** that in accordance with Article 6, Section 602 of the Cecil County Charter and

83 Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, if at the election the majority of the votes cast for

84 the aforementioned proposed amendment shall be in favor thereof, then the proposed

85 amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the Charter of Cecil County from and after

86 the thirtieth day after said election.

INTRODUCED: June 4, 2024

ADOPTED: July 16, 2024

President of the Council

ATTEST:

Council Manager

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