

COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND  
RESOLUTION NO. 686

Date of Introduction: March 17, 2026  
Introduced by: Councilmember Mike Detmer

**CHARTER AMENDMENT – COUNTY MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XI-A, SECTION 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 601 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND ADOPTING A PROPOSAL TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 405 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO CLARIFY CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY MANAGER; ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN VACANCIES; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO CERTIFY THE LOCAL BALLOT QUESTION TO THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO STATE ELECTION LAW; AND PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY.**

SECTION ONE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, (“County Council”) acting under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Constitution of Maryland (the “Constitution”) and acting under Section 601 of the Charter of Dorchester County (the “Charter”), that the County Council proposes to amend Article 4, Section 405 of the Charter to read as follows:

405. County Manager.

(a) The Council shall appoint a County Manager who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or State law, all departments, agencies, and offices of the Government shall be subject to the direction, supervision, and control of the County Manager under the authority of the Council. The County Manager shall:

- (1) Direct, supervise, and coordinate the administration and functions of all departments, agencies, and offices of the Government, except as may be otherwise provided by law or this Charter;
- (2) Except as may otherwise be provided in the Charter, hire, suspend, and remove all heads of departments, agencies, and offices of the Government, subject to approval by the Council. [;] **DURING A VACANCY IN ANY SUCH**

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EXPLANATION: **BOLD CAPITAL** indicates new language added to existing law.  
[~~strikethrough~~ in brackets] indicates language deleted from existing law.

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**POSITION, THE COUNTY MANAGER MAY FILL THE VACANCY WITH AN INTERIM APPOINTEE UNTIL COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

- (3) Ensure that all laws and provisions of the Charter, which may be subject to enforcement by the County Manager or by officers who are subject to the County Manager's direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;
- (4) [~~Be entitled to a~~]Attend all Council meetings, except those concerning the salary or future employment of the County Manager, but the County Manager may not vote;
- (5) Be responsible for the care and custody of Government buildings and all real property of the Government;
- (6) Be responsible for administering the purchasing policies of the Government;
- (7) Present a proposed capital and annual expense budget in a manner and form described in the Charter;
- (8) Fully advise the Council as to the financial condition and future needs of the County and make appropriate recommendations;
- (9) Within 90 days following the end of the fiscal year, provide the Council a complete and detailed report on the finances and administrative activities of the Government for the preceding year. Copies of the report shall be available for distribution to the public;
- (10) **WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, OR** [U]Under the direction of the Council, make, or cause to be made, studies or investigations that are in the best interests of the County, including but not limited to investigations of the affairs, functions, acts, methods, personnel or efficiency of any department, agency, office, or officer;
- (11) Recommend legislative, **POLICY AND REGULATORY** measures to the Council whenever appropriate; and
- (12) **APPOINT AN ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION AND COUNCIL APPROVAL, WHO SHALL FUNCTION AS INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER WHEN THE COUNTY MANAGER IS TEMPORARILY UNAVAILBLE DUE TO DISABILITY, EXTENDED ABSENCE OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, OR WHEN THE POSITION IS VACANT.**
- (13) Perform other duties as may be prescribed by law, this Charter, or the Council.

**(B) THE COUNTY MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. NO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SHALL GIVE ORDERS TO ANY SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEE, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY.**

**(C) WHEN THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION BECOMES VACANT, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONDUCT A SEARCH AND APPOINT AN INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER WITHIN SIX MONTHS. NO MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MAY BE APPOINTED INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER.**

SECTION TWO:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Charter Amendment and Local Question be submitted to the qualified voters of Dorchester County, Maryland at the next general election scheduled for November 3, 2026.

SECTION THREE:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 7-103 of the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the County Attorney shall certify the Local Question and the proposed Charter Amendment to the State Board of Elections on or before July 31, 2026.

SECTION FOUR:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 601 of the Charter and Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, the full text of the proposed Charter Amendment shall be published by the County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to the election in at least one newspaper published in Dorchester County.

SECTION FIVE:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 601 of the Charter and Article XI-A, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, if at the general election the majority of the votes cast for the proposed Charter Amendment shall be in favor thereof, then the proposed amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the Charter of Dorchester County from and after the thirtieth day after said election.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Jones, County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

  
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Mike Detmer, Vice President

  
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Rob Kramer, Jr.

Absent  
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William V. Nichols

  
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Ricky C. Travers