

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 687

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

CHARTER AMENDMENT – GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY

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 6 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY BY ADDING NEW SECTION 606 TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS AND INFORMATION; 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 6, by adding new Section 606 of the Charter to read as follows:

606. GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS.

(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENSURE THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MEDIA TO ATTEND, IN PERSON OR REMOTELY, OBSERVE, REPORT ON, AND BROADCAST MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TO WITNESS THE PHASES OF DELIBERATION, POLICY FORMATION, AND DECISION MAKING BY THE GOVERNMENT’S PUBLIC BODIES.

(B) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENABLE THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEDIA TO HAVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RECORDS WITHOUT UNNECESSARY COST OR DELAY. UNLESS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE, THE CUSTODIAN OF THE GOVERNMENT’S RECORDS SHALL PROVIDE SUCH ACCESS TO REQUESTED RECORDS.

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

(C) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENSURE THAT MEETING MINUTES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC BODIES, UPON APPROVAL, ARE PROMPTLY POSTED AND OTHERWISE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEDIA.

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 14th day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:



Jerry Jones, County Manager


THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND



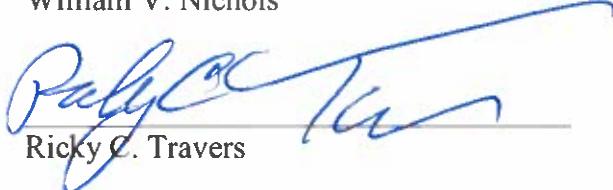
George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President



Mike Detmer, Vice President


Rob Kramer, Jr.

Absent
William V. Nichols


Ricky C. Travers