

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 689

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

**CHARTER AMENDMENT – PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COUNTY
BUDGET**

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 5, SECTION 504 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO CHANGE THE DATE BY WHICH THE COUNCIL SHALL PREPARE THE ANNUAL BUDGET TO MAY 15 OF EACH YEAR; AND AMEND SECTION 507(B) OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO CHANGE THE DATE BY WHICH THE COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET TO JUNE 15 EACH YEAR; 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 5, Section 504 of the Charter to read as follows:

504. Preparation of the County Budget

“Not later than May [4]15 of each year, the Council shall prepare a proposed Budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed Budget shall present a complete financial plan for the Government reflecting anticipated revenues from all sources, expenditures, and any surplus or deficit in the general or special funds of the Government. The proposed budget shall be reproduced and made available to the public.”

SECTION TWO:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, acting under the Constitution and acting under the Charter, that the County Council proposes to amend Article 5, Section 507(b) of the Charter to read as follows:

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

“507. Action on the Budget by the Council.

- (a) (no change)
- (b) The adoption of the Budget shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than three members of the full Council in a law enacted not later than [~~May 31~~] **JUNE 15** and to be known as the "Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance of Dorchester County".”

SECTION THREE:

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 FOUR:

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 FIVE:

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 SIX:

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:

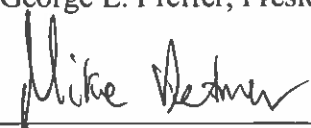


 Jerry Jones, County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND



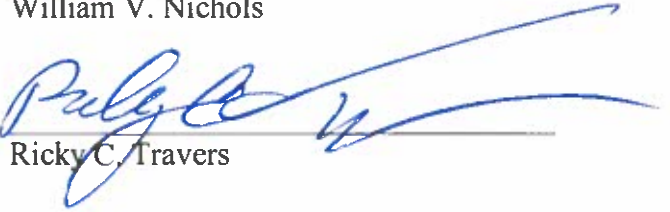
 George L. Pfeffer, President



 Mike Detmer, Vice President


Rob Kramer, Jr.

Absent
William V. Nichols


Ricky C. Travers