



REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 2025-2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

PRESENTATION TO THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
April 28, 2026

Commission Members

Camille A. Exum, Chair

L. Denise Hall

Arthur J. Horne, Jr.

Gloria Lawlah

Maurice Simpson, Jr.

Steven L. Taylor

Commission Staff

David H. Murray, Council Administrator

Colette R. Gresham, Deputy Council Administrator

Karen T. Zavakos, Associate Council Administrator

Donna J. Brown, Clerk of the Council

Kathleen H. Canning, Legislative Attorney

Rosalyn E. Pugh, Esq., Consultant

Sharon Savoy Williams, Administrative Staff

Acknowledgements

Maxene M. Bardwell, Chief Administrative Officer

Linda V. Allen, Director, Office of Finance

Stephanie D. Bridgeforth, Director, Office of Human Resources Management

David J. Byrd, Acting Director, Office of Central Services

Angela Fair, Director, Office of Budget and Management

Anthony D. Jones, County Attorney

Larry Whitehurst, Jr., Audit Manager, Office of Audits and Investigations

Alice M. Williams, Director and Purchasing Agent, Office of Procurement

OVERVIEW



Charter Review Commission Established

The Charter Review Commission was established pursuant to Charter Section 1106.

Charter Section 1106 provides that the County Council and the County Executive shall appoint, by resolution, a Charter Review Commission for the purpose of undertaking a comprehensive study of the Charter and recommending changes, where appropriate.



Charter Review Commission Administration

The Charter Review Commission undertook a study of the Charter from December 2025 through April 2026.

The Commission established three subcommittees to focus on various portions of the Charter.

- Administrative/Legislative Matters
- Personnel/Contracting Matters
- Budget/Fiscal Matters

The Chief Administrative Officer in the Office of the County Executive and several County agency heads submitted comments and appeared before the Commission.

All meetings, including a public hearing of the Commission were advertised, held in-person with virtual access and were open to the public for viewing.



Commission Focus

The Commission focused its efforts on:

- making more efficient County operating procedures in the areas of appropriations, personnel and contracting; and
- revising the Charter to comply with State law in the area of compensation of the Council members and the County Executive.



2025-2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: CHARTER AMENDMENTS



Recommendation #1

Charter Section 308.Compensation. and
Charter Section 406. Compensation.

The Commission recommends a technical amendment to Charter Section 308 and Charter Section 406 regarding compensation of Council members and the County Executive to be amended to comply with State law.



Recommendation #2

Charter Section 814. Transfer of Appropriations.

The Commission recommends approval of transfers between general classifications of expenditures in the current expense budget within the same agency and within the same fund may be authorized by the County Executive and that transfers exceeding \$1,500,000 are to be made on the recommendation of the County Executive with the approval of the County Council.



Recommendation #3

Charter Section 908. Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively.

The Commission recommends the amendment of Charter Section 908 to add language to align with the Labor Code which would allow for disputed issues to be submitted to the American Arbitration Association and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.



Recommendation #4

Charter Section 602. Duties of the County Purchasing Agent

The Commission recommends:

granting the County Purchasing Agent full signature authority to execute all contracts, agreements, and purchase orders; and

removing the surplus property provision, now under the Office of Central Services; and

conducting programs involving joint or cooperative purchasing with other public entities.



Recommendation #5

Charter Section 603. Competitive Bidding.

The Commission recommends streamlining competitive bargaining procedures; adding requests for quotations; and removing language pertaining to garbage and refuse collection extensions.



Public Hearing

On March 4, 2026, the Commission held an in-person public hearing that was virtually accessible taking testimony on whether persons wanted Charter amendments.

At-Large Council membership, redistricting and Council vacancies and Council appointments were discussed. The Commission recommended to the persons testifying and commenting on charter provisions the option of placing the Charter amendments on the ballot through petition referendum. Information on petition referendum was provided via correspondence.



Commission Directive

Gender Neutral Language

The Commission requested that the County Executive and the Council revise the Charter Schedule of Legislation to reflect gender-neutral language as was prescribed in the 2022 Charter Amendment.

QUESTIONS?

The Charter Review Commission looks forward to your acceptance of and concurrence with the Commission's charter amendment recommendations.

