

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Council Bill- 40-2016**

**1. What is CB-40-2016?**

CB-40-2016 is a Council Bill that proposes a question be placed on the November 8, 2016 General Election ballot to be decided by County voters regarding a Charter Amendment adding two At-Large Members to the County Council.

**2. What action has the County Council taken on CB-40-2016**

This legislation was unanimously approved on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 by the County Council for placement on the ballot.

**3. What is an “At-Large” Council Member?**

In Prince George’s County, an At-Large Council Member is elected by voters from the entire County to represent the interests of the entire County.

**4. Has the Prince George’s County Council ever included At-Large Members?**

Yes. From 1971 to 1982, the Council consisted of six (6) At-Large and five (5) District Members.

**5. What is the cost of adding two At-Large Members to the Council body?**

The estimated costs range between \$830,000 and \$1.1 million, at most “less than one-tenth of one-percent,” (significantly less than a percentage point) of the County’s General Fund.

**6. Why did the Council propose legislation to place CB-40-2016 on the ballot?**

Providing for members of the Council who have a countywide perspective by adding At-Large seats to the County Council could strengthen the County’s ability to compete successfully in the Metropolitan Washington region.

**7. Will adding At-Large Members override Term Limits?**

No. The current two-term limitation for Council Members, whether elected by district or at-large, would remain. However, a Council Member who served an individual District could subsequently run countywide for an At-Large Council seat.

**8. Can the County Council enact legislation to override Term Limits?**

No. Any change to Term Limits would require a voter-approved amendment to the County Charter.

**9. Do our neighboring jurisdictions have At-Large Council representation?**

Yes. The composition of Montgomery County, Baltimore City, and the District of Columbia councils, all include a combination of At-large and District Members.

**10. What if voters do not approve the addition of At-Large seats to the Council?**

The Council will continue to operate with nine ((9) Members elected from individual Districts.