

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

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 2024 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 409 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO SPECIFY THAT THE REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF EACH COUNCIL TERM; 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 409 of the Charter to read as follows:

409. Review of Administrative Structure.

By the year 2006 and at least every four years thereafter, the Council shall [~~have made~~] **CONDUCT** an evaluation of the organizations, functions, powers, and duties of each department, agency, and office in the executive branch of the Government. The evaluation shall **BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF EACH COUNCIL TERM AND** address the efficiency and effectiveness of programs, services, and administration.

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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer, Vice President

Rob Kramer, Jr.

William V. Nichols

Ricky C. Travers

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 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 2024 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, 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 507(b) of the Charter to read as follows:

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 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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer, Vice President

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William V. Nichols

Ricky C. Travers

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – PREPARATION 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 2024 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; 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 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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

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DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – COUNTY MANAGER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

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 2024 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 406 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COUNTY MANAGER BE A RESIDENT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY; 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 406 of the Charter to read as follows:

406. Qualifications of County Manager.

The County Manager shall be a United States citizen and appointed on the basis of education and professional experience in business or government and executive and administrative affairs. ~~[The County Manager need not be a resident of the County at the time of appointment, but shall become a resident within six months after appointment. The County Manager shall retain residency in the County for as long as the person is employed as the 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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer, Vice President

Rob Kramer, Jr.

William V. Nichols

Ricky C. Travers

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

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 2024 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 administrations 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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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) ~~[Under the direction of the Council]~~ **WHENEVER APPROPRIATE** 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 UNAVAILABLE 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. THE COUNCIL SHALL DEAL WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES SOLELY THROUGH THE COUNTY MANAGER, AND NEITHER THE COUNCIL NOR ANY MEMBER THEREOF 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 5, 2024.

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer, Vice President

Rob Kramer, Jr.

William V. Nichols

Ricky C. Travers

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – DIRECTOR OF FINANCE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

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 2024 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, SECTION 501 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE BE A RESIDENT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY; 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 501 of the Charter to read as follows:

501. Establishment of Position of Director of Finance.

The County Manager shall, with the approval of the Council, appoint one person, knowledgeable and experienced in financial matters, to serve as the Director of Finance of the County. [~~The Director of Finance must take up and continue residence in the County within six months of appointment.~~]

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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer, Vice President

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William V. Nichols

Ricky C. Travers

Draft for Introduction

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

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 2024 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.

EXPLANATION: **BOLD CAPITAL** indicates new language added to existing law.
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(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 5, 2024.

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones, County Manager

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Date of Introduction: _____, 2024

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CHARTER AMENDMENT – COUNCILMEMBER TERM LIMITS

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 2024 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 2, SECTION 206 OF THE CHARTER OF DORCHESTER COUNTY TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE TERMS A COUNCILMEMBER MAY SERVE TO THREE (FOUR-YEAR) TERMS; 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 2, Section 206 of the Charter to read as follows:

206. Term of Office.

A councilmember shall hold office for a term beginning at noon on the first Monday of December next following the regular election of the County Council and ending at noon on the first Monday of December in the fourth year thereafter, or until a successor is qualified. **BEGINNING WITH THE TERMS COMMENCING IN OR AFTER 2026, NO COUNCILMEMBER MAY SERVE MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS.**

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 5, 2024.

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

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 August 2, 2024.

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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

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