

# Participate in the Legislative Process

## 1. Attend a Council Meeting

### - COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

- Every Tuesday (except 5th Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.)
- Council discussions and presentation
- Agenda available online
- Audio recording available online

### - COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- First and third Tuesday of month at 7:00 p.m.
- Opportunity to speak during Public Comments and give testimony during public hearings on legislation
- Agenda available online
- Audio recording available online

### - CITIZENS CORNER

- Prior to Council Legislative Sessions at 6:00 p.m.
- Opportunity to ask questions and get answers
- No agenda, informal
- Audio recording available online



### KEEP INFORMED!

Access the Council website at:  
[www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org) to get information on...

- Council Agendas
- Council Minutes
- Audio Recordings of Meetings
- Public Meeting Calendar
- Charter and County Code
- Contact Information on Elected Officials

## 2. Contact Council Members

- **Call** Council Members at 410.996.5201
- **Write** to Council Members:  
c/o Cecil County Council,  
200 Chesapeake Blvd,  
Elkton MD 21921
- **Email** Council Members: [council@ccgov.org](mailto:council@ccgov.org)

## 3. Community organization meetings

- Invite a Council Member to attend your meeting.

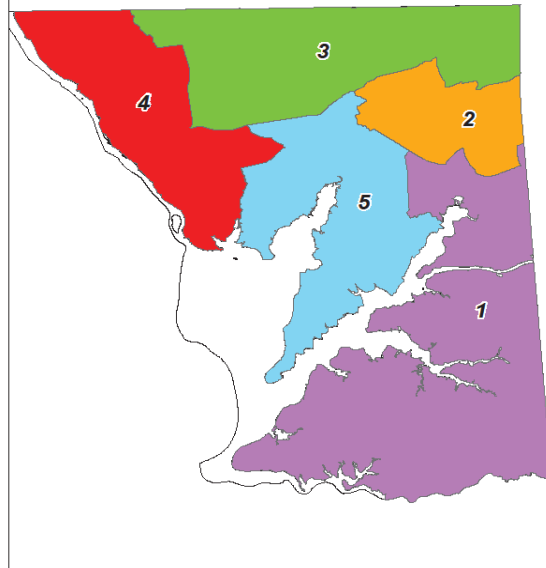


**Council Meetings** are held in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, Maryland 21921.

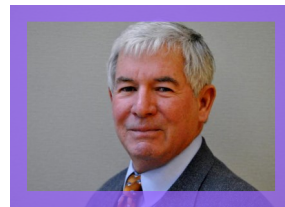
Meetings are audio recorded and the recording is made available on the County website at [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org)

## MEET THE COUNCIL



**President Robert J. Hodge - District 5**  
**Office: 410.996.5201**  
**Cell: 443.553.1517**  
**Email: rhodge@ccgov.org**

- Second term on Council — Elected to serve from 2012 - 2016
- First term as County Commissioner from 2009 - 2012
- Selected President of the County Council in January 2013
- Local businessman and cattle/horse farm in the North East area
- Public service includes Economic Development Commission, Bainbridge Development Corporation and Social Services Board of Directors



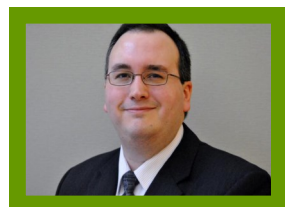
**Vice President Dr. Alan McCarthy - District 1**  
**Office: 410.996.5201**  
**Email: ajmccarthy@ccgov.org**

- First term on Council — Elected to serve from 2012 - 2016
- Selected Vice President of the County Council in January 2013
- Equine veterinarian for horse farms in MD, DE, and PA
- Public service includes Maryland Rural Development Corporation and Maryland Association of Counties



**Councilwoman Joyce Bowsbey - District 2**  
**Office: 410.996.5201**  
**Email: jbowsbey@ccgov.org**

- First term on Council — Appointed by the County Executive to serve until 2014
- Retired from W.L. Gore & Associates in 2003 as a Corporate Customer Service Representative in the Fabrics Division
- Public service includes Commission on Aging and Human Services Agency
- Former Charter Review Board Chair



**Councilman Michael Dunn - District 3**  
**Office: 410.996.5201**  
**Email: mdunn@ccgov.org**

- First term on Council — Elected to serve from 2010-2014
- Served as a congressional intern in the US House of Representatives and legislative aide in the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates
- Public service includes Parks and Recreation Board and Firemen's Association



**Councilwoman Diana Broomell - District 4**  
**Office: 410.996.5201**  
**Email: dbroomell@ccgov.org**

- First term on Council — Elected to serve from 2010-2014
- Served as Vice President of Board of County Commissioners from 2010-2012
- President of the 21st Century Republican Club, Elected 2 terms on Republican Central Committee, Founding member of the Cecil Land Use Alliance, Chairman of the Elected School Board Ballot Initiative.

- Employment history: Legal Secretary, Legislative Aide, Havre de Grace Main Street Director.
- Public service includes Executive Board Member of MACo, Upper Shore Regional Council, Clean Chesapeake Coalition, and Rural County Coalition. Also serves on the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Council and Planning Commission.

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



**Legislation** is drafted in response to a problem or issue, to comply with a state or federal mandate or local process, or from an idea provided by citizens, organizations, the County Executive, or a Council Member or Members to create or change a law or policy.



A Council Member or Members must **support & introduce** the legislation at a Legislative Meeting.

**At introduction**, a public hearing on the legislation is scheduled, unless the legislation is rejected by a vote of 4 Council Members. (Charter §304d)



**Notice of Public Hearing** are posted on the Council's webpage, published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation. (Charter §304d)

[www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org)

**Copies of legislation** are available online, picked up at the County Office Building or requested by telephone or email.

The **Public Hearing** is an opportunity for citizens to speak in support or opposition to the proposed legislation. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the legislative process by reviewing the legislation, and providing comments or testimony at the public hearing. If citizens are not able to attend the public hearing, they may write, email or call council members or council staff to provide comments and testimony.

**Council Consideration is tentatively scheduled at the next legislative session after public hearing.** Legislation not enacted within 65 days of introduction is void. (Charter §304f)

**Legislation enacted** by the Council is sent to the County Executive for approval.

**If County Executive approves**, legislation goes into effect as stated, usually within 60 days.

**If County Executive fails to take action** within 10 days, the legislation is deemed approved without Executive action (Charter and §306a)

**If County Executive vetoes** legislation, the Council may override the Executive's veto with four votes. (Charter §306) Legislation usually takes effect 60 calendar days after enactment by the Council, provided it does not go to referendum, or is vetoed by the Executive. (Charter §307)



**Some legislation can be petitioned to the ballot as a referendum** so that the voters can approve or disapprove. Petitions, in a form approved by the State, can be circulated to obtain signatures for registered voters. Ten percent of the registered voters of the county are required to be successful in bringing the legislation to referendum. In Maryland, laws imposing a tax, appropriating funds for current expenses to maintain government or prescribing residency districts cannot be petitioned to referendum.