The County Council of Cecil County is the legislative branch of county government as established by the Charter of Cecil County on December 3, 2012.

The County Council is composed of five council members who are elected to a four year term of office. Each Council Member is elected countywide but must reside in the district that they represent. There are five councilmanic districts in Cecil County, which has recently been redistricted to ensure an equal population in each district.

Cecil County is the only Maryland county that staggers the terms of their council members. Three council members, representing districts 2, 3, and 4, will be elected in 2014 during the gubernatorial election; and two council members, representing districts 1 and 5, will be elected in 2016 during the presidential election.

Voters elected the first County Executive in 2012 to serve a four year term of office. The role of the County Executive is to serve as the executive branch of county government. The County Executive administers the laws and supervises the departments and agencies of the executive branch of government.

The County Council and County Executive establish a "check and balance" system that works together to provide leadership and make effective decisions for local government.

The Council may enact public local laws for the peace, good government, health, safety or welfare of Cecil County. Legislation can be in the form of a Bill or Resolution. Bills are included in the Code of Cecil County while resolutions are usually the Council’s approval of an action by the administration or an expression of the Council's opinion. The Council must also approve regulations such as the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code, Subdivision Regulations, Master Water and Sewer Plan, and the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. The Council approves the County's annual operating and capital budget submitted by the County Executive, sets the tax rate, authorizes issuance of all County bonds, and approves revisions to the budget throughout the year. The Council can establish ad hoc committees to advise them on specific projects. The Council also confirms the appointments, as nominated by the County Executive, to County boards and commissions. Council Members also assist the public with their problems or concerns, whether with local, state or federal government.

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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 Bowlsbey - District 2
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: jbowlsbey@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.

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

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)

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.