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 council districts in Cecil County, which were redistricted in 2013 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, were elected in 2018 during the gubernatorial election and serve until 2022. Two council members, representing districts 1 and 5, were elected in 2016 during the presidential election and will serve until 2020.

Voters elected the County Executive in 2018 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.

**County Council Responsibilities…**

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 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.
President Robert Meffley
District 1 (includes Cecilon, Chesapeake City, Earleville, Warwick and Fredericktown)
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: bmeffley@ccgov.org
- First term on Council — elected to serve from 2016 to 2020
- Business owner of H&B Plumbing and Heating for 36 years
- Public service includes: Clean Chesapeake Coalition, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, Maryland Rural Development Council, Tobacco Task Force, Transportation Coordinating Council, Upper Shore Regional Council, Watershed Implementation Plan Committee, Weed Control Committee and Economic Development Commission alternate member.

Vice President Jackie Gregory
District 5 (includes North East and Elk Neck)
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: jgregory@ccgov.org
- First term on Council — elected to serve from 2016 to 2020
- BA graduate of Liberty University and MA graduate of McDaniel College
- Educator for 17 years
- Founder of Cecil Patriots in 2009
- Public service includes: Child Advocacy Center, Infants and Toddlers Program—Local Interagency Coordinator, Maryland Association of Counties alternate member.

Councilman William Coutz
District 2 (includes Elkton, Elk Mills, and Childs)
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: bcoutz@ccgov.org
- First term on Council — elected to serve from 2018 to 2022
- Degree in Business Administration and Political Science. A lifetime resident of Cecil County, he has spent twenty-five years in the interior and exterior shading industry and now serves as a consultant
- Economic Development Commission, Maryland Rural Counties Coalition Board, Upper Shore Regional Council, Commission on Aging, Planning Commission

Councilman Al Miller
District 3 (includes Rising Sun, Cherry Hill, Calvert and Fair Hill)
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: agmiller@ccgov.org
- First term on Council — elected to serve from 2018 to 2022
- Graduated from the University of Delaware and has been in the agriculture profession for many years, currently working at Ag Industrial, Inc. selling New Holland Agriculture & Construction Equipment in Rising Sun.
- Human Services Agency, Cecil County Farm Bureau, Cecil County Watershed Improvement Plan Advisory Committee

Councilman George Patchell
District 4 (includes Perryville, Port Deposit, Charlestown, Colora, Perry Point, Bainbridge)
Office: 410.996.5201
Email: gpatchell@ccgov.org
- Second term on Council — elected to serve from 2018 to 2022
- Current Executive Director of YMCA of Cecil County
- Public service includes: Cecil County Firemen's Association, Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board, and Parks and Recreation Board

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 or 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)

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.