

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
Bill No. 92-25, as amended											
2026-01-12 13:44:26	Daniel	Weber	Severn	Maryland	21144	Yes		Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Oppose	<p>This proposed legislation is supposed to be pertaining to Cottage Home Developments.</p> <p>1. Page No. 5 - Lines 48-50 states: (E) The density in a cottage home development may not exceed 8 dwelling units per acre in an R1 zoning district, 12 dwelling units per acre in an R2 zoning district, and 15 dwelling units per acre in an R-5 zoning district and 20 dwelling units per acre in an R10 zoning district. Each of these exceed what the county zoning already has in existing zoning codes. As written this legislation changes R1, R2, R5, and R10 zoning to R8, R12, R15 and R20 respectively. Thus, our home (currently R2) would effectively become R12. That would destroy our current neighborhood. Existing codes allow a maximum of: 1 dwelling unit per acre in an R1 residential zoned location; 2 dwelling units per acre in an R2 zoned location; 5 dwelling units per acre in an R5 zoned location, 10 dwelling units per acre in an R10 zoned location. Thus, the legislation as written violates current zoning code. Perhaps an entirely new zoning district needs to be created for cottage housing and condominium developments (i.e. CH not R) in the proposed legislation. Otherwise, cottage homes need to comply with the current existing residential zoning limitations and be restricted to R10, R15 R22 zoned locations as appropriate. Plunking high density housing into an R1-R5 zoned district is still inappropriate without that area going through the entire zoning code change process....</p> <p>2. In addition, there needs to be a separate allocation of acreage for the "conference retreat facility" which may be better termed a "community center" as the "conference retreat facility" moniker makes it sound like a commercial business hosting retreats which would belong in at least a Mixed Use (MXD) zoning district or industrial district not a residential district.</p> <p>3. Also, this proposed legislation does not make any allowances for zoned open space. At a minimum any acreage already zoned conservation property (e.g. forest conservation) and not buildable must NOT be considered in making the allocation of buildable acreage within the planned Cottage Home Development.</p> <p>4. Aren't duplex dwellings already covered under existing building and zoning codes? Leave those codes as they are and do not confuse the purpose of cottage home developments.</p>	
2026-01-19 9:25:29	Sara	Westrick	ANNAPOLIS	MD	21401	No	AARP Maryland	Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Support		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative/testimony/81187/bill-no-92-25-cottage-development-aaco-january-2026-aarp-md.pdf
2026-01-19 13:48:02	Teresa	Redd	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes		Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Support	We NEED this cottage home bill to build affordable housing in this county. Too many people who work here can't afford to live here.	
2026-01-19 13:54:25	Ariana	Kidder	Harwood	MD	20776	Yes		Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Support	<p>I am in support of Bill No. 92-25. I am also a member of Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT).</p> <p>I currently live in a 4 generation household that affords me very low rent. I can't currently afford to rent an apartment independently within commuting distance of my Full-Time County position and owning a home especially isn't a realistic consideration for me. This bill would make becoming a homeowner a very real possibility for me. If I were able to live independently, I don't require or want much space. Having more, smaller spaces as an option would also be more affordable in general maintenance costs, electrical costs, etc.</p>	

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2026-01-19 14:17:14	Kari	Alperovitz-Bichel	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Support	<p>I am Dr. Kari Alperovitz-Bichel. I Live just outside Annapolis city, near the Annapolis Mall, in a neighborhood that is zoned R-1. I'm writing in support of Bill 92-25 regarding cottage housing. I write for myself as an individual, but I am also a member of ACT (Anna Arundel Connecting Together) which is also supportive of this bill.</p> <p>My overall view is that Anne Arundel County needs dramatically more affordable housing, so that our elders, our young people, our important, workforce members like teachers, nurses, etc, can afford to live here. This cottage housing bill is one method to get more affordable housing for our neighbors. It is one good tool in the tool-kit. We need many tools.</p> <p>Because affordably priced houses are so needed in our county, I expect that these cottage homes will be very popular. I am supportive of an amendment that would add W-1 as an eligible zoning type. I can see no significant downside to building in such locations.</p> <p>In my work as a physician in the county, I have encountered many patients who couch surf or squeeze in with relatives because they cannot find housing they can afford. I have also encountered many medical support staff who drive long distances from outside the county in order to reach jobs in our county because of the housing affordability problem.</p> <p>While more housing in the county may add to traffic in certain locations, it is likely to decrease traffic and pollution coming from those commuting in. And it will improve economic conditions for Arundel County residents in general.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes for bill 92-25.</p>	
2026-01-20 8:21:43	Linda	Hanifin Bonner	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		Bill No. 92-25 (As Amended): AN ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development	Support	testimony for Jan 20th council meeting	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81293/jan-20-council-meeting-testimony.pdf
Bill No. 97-25											
2026-01-18 7:24:17	VICKI	SWINGLE	Odenton	Maryland	21113	Yes		Bill No. 97-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission	Support	<p>This revision brings the Commission in line with efforts the State made in FY24 and FY25 to incorporate support for military families into the framework already established to support Maryland's veterans. This was reflected in the renaming of the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans and Military Families.</p> <p>This bill also recognizes the overlap between the services and support needed by veterans and the services and support needed by the families of veterans and service members, and will allow the Commission to work more effectively in developing policies and programs that demonstrate Anne Arundel County's commitment to veterans and military families.</p>	
2026-01-19 10:25:06	Debra	Luzietti-Myers	Odenton	Maryland	21113	Yes		Bill No. 97-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission	Support		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81197/testimony-in-support-of-anne-arundel-county-council-bill-97-25.docx
2026-01-20 6:08:57	Kevin	Peyatt	Millersville	Maryland	21108	No	AACO Veterans	Bill No. 97-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission	Support	<p>I fully support for the purpose of aligning the function and responsibility of AACO Veterans Affairs Commission with efforts of the State's changes that were made during FY24 and FY25. The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (MDVMF) changes were to incorporate support for military families into the framework already established to support Maryland's veterans and this is reflected in the renaming of the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans and Military Families.</p> <p>Additionally, we recognize the overlap between the services and support needed by veterans and the services and support needed by the families of veterans and service members, both Active duty and Reserves.</p> <p>This update aligning our re-name to mirror Maryland State shall allow the Commission to work more effectively in developing policies and programs that demonstrate Anne Arundel County's commitment to veterans and military families throughout the county.</p> <p>Lastly, this shall allow Anne Arundel County to continue its leadership role in veteran and military family policies and programs, while aligning priorities and support complimenting the efforts of the State.</p> <p>KEVIN PEYATT Command Sergeant Major US Army, Retired AACO Veterans Affairs Commission</p>	
Bill No. 100-25											

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2026-01-19 10:31:37	Patricia	Baldwin	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81198/testimony.pla-aa-cnty-bill-100.25.docx
2026-01-19 14:12:28	Jay	Baldwin	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose	<p>Chairperson and members of the Council,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.</p> <p>I am the President of Reliable Contracting Company, Inc. and an owner of Environmental Quality Resources, Inc. both located in Anne Arundel County and employing over 600 county residents. 60% of our revenue is generated in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>I am submitting this testimony to express my opposition to the use of mandatory Project Labor Agreements on public construction projects.</p> <p>While PLAs are often presented as a tool to improve safety, quality, and labor harmony, there is no conclusive evidence that these outcomes cannot be achieved through open and competitive bidding. In fact, a majority of high-quality, on-time, and safe public projects are completed every year without PLAs.</p> <p>Mandatory PLAs reduce competition by discouraging qualified non-union and open-shop contractors from bidding. This smaller bidder pool leads to higher project costs, fewer local bidders, and less value for taxpayers.</p> <p>PLAs also place an unfair burden on local, small, and minority-owned businesses. These firms may be forced to hire through union halls, contribute to benefit plans their employees will never be vested in, and comply with complex labor requirements that favor large, unionized contractors.</p> <p>Additionally, PLAs can disrupt established workforces by preventing contractors from using their own trained employees. This can negatively affect productivity and weaken long-standing employer-employee relationships.</p> <p>Public projects should be awarded based on qualifications, safety performance, experience, and cost—not on whether a contractor agrees to a specific labor affiliation.</p> <p>I urge the Council to promote open competition and allow all qualified contractors—union and non-union—to compete on a level playing field. This approach protects taxpayers, supports local businesses, and ensures the best possible outcomes for public projects.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
2026-01-19 16:00:17	Steve	Smollon	Crofton	Maryland	21114	Yes		Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose		
2026-01-19 16:03:00	Kevin	O'Keeffe	Baltimore	MD	21230	No	Independent Elec	Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81246/letter-of-opposition_aa-council-bill-100-25.docx
2026-01-20 9:20:57	Mike	Sakata	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	No	MTBM	Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81302/mtbma_oppose_aa_100-25.pdf
2026-01-20 9:51:29	Matthew	Teffeau	Beltsville	MD	20705	No	ABC Metro Wash	Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81307/comment-from-associated-builders-and-contractors-metro-washington-chapter-anne-arundel-county-bill-100-25-establishing-requirements-for-the-use-of-project-labor-agreement.pdf

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2026-01-20 10:41:26	Harry	Holmes	Arnold	MD	21012-1737	No	IEC	Bill No. 100-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements	Oppose	As a resident of Anne Arundel County and a business owner located in the state of Maryland I strongly oppose Bill # 100-25 - Procurement-Project Labor Agreements. The negative impact these will have at the local government level will be significant in the areas of overall project cost and business participation at the competitive market level. This bill will force businesses such as mine to not consider participating and performing future work in the county I reside. We are a merit shop electrical subcontractor that has been trusted in our 28 years, employing over 250 qualified electricians (many of which also reside in AACO) to perform our services on iconic projects thru-out the state of Maryland such as Seneca Valley HS, the largest high school currently in the state of Maryland. The full restoration of the iconic WDC Mormon Temple, the full restoration of the Old Annapolis Historical Post Office, and currently the new construction of Old Mill HS located in AACO for AACO public schools. Lastly, my wife has lived her entire life in AACO along with six of our seven adult children that currently reside and are property owners all with in AACO. The impact this bill will have on their future of staying residence for the long term would be in question. Please oppose this bill with no other considerations to allow our county the opportunity for positive continued economic growth and prosperity.	
Bill No. 101-25											
2026-01-20 10:19:52	Matthew	Pipkin	Owings Mills	MD	21117	No	Maryland Multi-H	Bill No. 101-25: AN ORDINANCE concerning: General Provisions – Public Works – Landlord-Tenant Eviction	Oppose	MMHA is favorable w/ amendments to Bill 101-25. Please see the attached testimony.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81314/mmha-2026-aa-county-bill-101-25-fwa.pdf
Resolution No. 36-25											
2026-01-15 8:52:33	Jesse	Raudales	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Support	As the Executive Director of the OIC of Anne Arundel County, Inc., I, Jesse Raudales, respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of the proposed amendment to the Anne Arundel County Charter to create an Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs and the position of Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer within the Executive Branch. Our county is home to an increasingly diverse population, and yet there remains a need for a dedicated office to ensure that the perspectives, voices, and needs of all cultural communities are meaningfully represented in county policy, programs, and services. The creation of this office will provide a centralized point of leadership and accountability for fostering equity, inclusion, and cultural competency across all areas of local government. As someone who has spent decades working with historically underserved populations, I can attest to the transformative impact that focused advocacy and culturally responsive programming can have on individuals, families, and communities. A Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer would serve as a bridge between county government and diverse communities, facilitating communication, promoting equitable access to resources, and ensuring that decision-making reflects the richness and diversity of Anne Arundel County. I strongly encourage the County Council and the voters of Anne Arundel County to support this amendment. Establishing this office is a forward-looking step that will strengthen community engagement, equity, and inclusion for years to come. Respectfully submitted, Jesse Raudales Executive Director OIC of Anne Arundel County, Inc.	
2026-01-17 18:26:03	Stephan	Chichester	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capital Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	Good evening County Council Members. My name is Stephan Chichester, I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project. CAP formally opposes Resolution 36-25 as currently written. Not because inclusion is wrong — but because this resolution seeks to permanently Charter-recognize an office while failing to specifically recognize Black Americans, Negro, Freedman and their Descendants, whose labor built this County and whose exclusion shaped its wealth. The County Charter is not symbolic. It is the County's constitution. When you place an office in the Charter, you are deciding whose interests are permanent and whose remain discretionary. Resolution 36-25 elevates a broad multicultural framework, while Black American and Freedman communities who endured slavery, segregation, and state-sanctioned exclusion , are once again folded into vague language and asked to wait. We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for specific recognition and structural parity before permanence is granted. Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured. Thank you.	

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2026-01-17 19:45:19	K	Goodwyn	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Ms. Goodwyn, and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to speak tonight about money because budgets reveal values more honestly than words.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-01-18 19:19:07	Keepsake Heritage	Foundation	Banning	CA	92220	No	Keepsake Herita	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>Keepsake Heritage Foundation is not based in Anne Arundel County, we are based out of California with members across the United States of America. Keepsake Heritage Foundation is a nationwide organization that promotes cultural retention and heritage preservation of Black Americans who descend from U.S. Chattel Slavery. We stand in solidarity with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	

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2026-01-18 19:28:55	Shantel "Chectahi"	Bacon	Beaumont	CA	92223	No	CAP	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is S. Chectachi Bacon, I am not a resident of Anne Arundel County, however I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>As a descendant of Foundational Black American Negro Freedmen, I will no longer support government entities using my history and culture as a catalyst to promote other cultures while neglecting my own.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you for this public form.</p>	
2026-01-18 19:45:10	Shantel "Chetachi"	Bacon	Beaumont	CA	92223	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is S. Chetachi Bacon, I am not a resident of Anne Arundel County, however I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>As a descendant of Foundational Black American Negro Freedmen, I will no longer support government entities using my history and culture as a catalyst to promote other cultures while neglecting my own.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.</p>	

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2026-01-19 10:18:12	A	Fennell	S Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>My name is Mrs Fennell. I am a member of the Capitol Accountability Project, and I am here to speak in opposition to Resolution 36-25 in its current form.</p> <p>This County is being asked to establish and resource a Multicultural Office while Black Americans—specifically Freedmen and their descendants who are residents of Anne Arundel County—still do not have a comparable office with clear authority, dedicated funding, or accountability. That imbalance matters. Equity cannot exist when one community is structurally excluded from the same institutional access others receive.</p> <p>We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal treatment. Before additional assistance or infrastructure is extended elsewhere, this County must address the long-standing absence of a formal, empowered office for Black American Freedmen.</p> <p>The disparity in recognition and resource allocation is not theoretical. It is measurable, persistent, and the result of policy decisions. Moving forward without correcting it reinforces a pattern where Black Americans are asked, once again, to wait.</p> <p>For these reasons, we respectfully but firmly call on this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and reopen the process to allow for community-submitted amendments, so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured before this body proceeds.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>A Fennell</p>	

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2026-01-19 10:19:16	Asia	Colter	Philadelphia	PA	19150	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Asia Colter, I am NOT a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to speak tonight about money because budgets reveal values more honestly than words.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	

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2026-01-19 10:22:52	Cassiopia	Oliver	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Ms. Cassiopia Oliver and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to speak tonight about money because budgets reveal values more honestly than words.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-01-19 10:33:00	Ashaki	Nichols	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Dr. Ashaki Noni Nichols, I am not a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I am representing and stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to speak tonight about money because budgets reveal values more honestly than words.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-19 10:40:28	TAMARA	SINGLETON	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Tamara Singleton, I am representing Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to provide a testimony to oppose Resolution 36-25.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-01-19 10:55:15	Maria	Hartman	Severna Park	MD	21146	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	Breathtaking multibillion dollar social services fraud is coming to light in other states, leveraging the advancement from offices of multicultural services. Putting this on the ballot is the same way the fraud was installed elsewhere. Good intentions are subverted by this prospect, which started elsewhere with legislator and voter ignorance. It is not the time to begin this in our county. It would be wise to vote against this now.	
2026-01-19 11:00:49	Sean	Holmes	S Laurel	MD	20724	No	CAP	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening, County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Sean Holmes . I am a member of the Capitol Accountability Project, and I am here to speak in opposition to Resolution 36-25 in its current form.</p> <p>This County is being asked to establish and resource a Multicultural Office while Black Americans—specifically Freedmen and their descendants who are residents of Anne Arundel County—still do not have a comparable office with clear authority, dedicated funding, or accountability. That imbalance matters. Equity cannot exist when one community is structurally excluded from the same institutional access others receive.</p> <p>We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal treatment. Before additional assistance or infrastructure is extended elsewhere, this County must address the long-standing absence of a formal, empowered office for Black American Freedmen.</p> <p>The disparity in recognition and resource allocation is not theoretical. It is measurable, persistent, and the result of policy decisions. Moving forward without correcting it reinforces a pattern where Black Americans are asked, once again, to wait.</p> <p>For these reasons, we respectfully but firmly call on this Council to withdraw Resolution 36-25 and introduce a new resolution establishing an Office or Commission of Black American Negro Freedmen Affairs, with its own mission, authority, and development pathway.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-19 17:23:19	Timothy	Boston	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening, County Council Members.</p> <p>Along with The Capital Accountability Project, I respectfully oppose Resolution 36-25 as it is currently written, not because inclusion is unimportant, but because this resolution moves toward permanently chartering an office without clearly and specifically recognizing Black Americans.</p> <p>The County Charter is more than symbolic; it is the County's constitution. When an office is placed within it, a long-term commitment is being made about whose interests are guaranteed permanence and whose remain subject to future discretion.</p> <p>While Resolution 36-25 advances a broad and well-intentioned multicultural framework, many Black American communities, who endured slavery, segregation, and state-sanctioned exclusion, continue to experience being addressed in general terms rather than through specific recognition.</p> <p>I am asking for thoughtful consideration, clear acknowledgment, and structural parity before permanence is granted.</p> <p>In conclusion, I respectfully ask the Council to consider withdrawing Resolution 36-25 and introducing a new resolution to establish an Office or Commission of Black American, Negro, and Freedmen Affairs, one with a clearly defined mission, appropriate authority, and a viable path for development.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.</p> <p>Timothy Boston</p>	
2026-01-19 19:48:46	Marco	Avila	Baltimore	MD	21201	No	Maryland Hispan	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Support	From a business and economic development perspective, this Office is essential. Equally important, placing this Office within the County Charter ensures continuity, stability, and long-term commitment, regardless of future administrations.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81260/20260120_anne-arundel-county-36-25-fav-written-testimony.pdf
2026-01-19 20:19:13	Michelle	Peters	Pasadena	Md	21122	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81262/resolution-36-25.pdf
2026-01-19 21:32:22	Vickie	Gipson	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	See attached	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81267/oma_charter_referendum_objection_vickie_gipson_onepage_professional_v3.pdf
2026-01-19 22:58:17	Claudia	Barber	Laurel	Maryland	20724	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Support	This office should include resources for African American Freedmen. Same resources such as legal services should be accessible.	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-19 23:36:29	Ahsun	Powell	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Submission 1 of 2 – BANF Disparities Fact Sheet (CAP)</p> <p>My name is Ahsun Powell. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County and President of the Capitol Accountability Project (CAP).</p> <p>This submission is one of two related written filings provided to the County Council regarding Resolution 36-25. Together, these submissions include a fact sheet documenting disparities facing Black American Negro Freedmen (BANF) and a formal memo outlining CAP's position. They are intended to be read as a single, unified record.</p> <p>The data presented is not ambiguous. BANF experience worse outcomes in contracting, housing, education, and health—despite being one of the oldest populations in Anne Arundel County. These disparities are not accidental. They are the result of government policy, exclusion, and decades of administrative neglect.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 does not address that harm. Folding BANF into the Office of Multicultural Affairs erases lineage, dilutes accountability, and permanently subordinates a population with a distinct legal and historical claim.</p> <p>CAP is not requesting the dismantling of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. We are demanding structural self-determination and a dedicated governmental structure capable of addressing lineage-specific harm.</p> <p>Structural harm requires structural redress.</p> <p>This resolution does not repair harm—it institutionalizes it.</p> <p>Vote NO on Resolution 36-25.</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81276/banf_fact_sheet_contract_and_equity_comparison.docx.pdf
2026-01-19 23:40:14	Ahsun	Powell	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	Submission 2 of 2 – CAP Memo: Position on Resolution 36-25	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81277/memo-position-on-resolution-36-25.docx.pdf
2026-01-20 1:09:10	Renetra	Anderson	ANNAPOLIS	MD	21401	Yes		Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Hello county council members. My name is Renetra Anderson and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. I submit this testimony in opposition of Resolution 36-25.</p> <p>This county issued a public apology for slavery in 2025. But where is the action? Resolution 36-25 is not repair it is erasure. It refuses to name the very people who were targeted by centuries of state-backed harm:</p> <p>Black American Negro Freedmen.</p> <p>We are not a cultural subgroup. We are the descendants of chattel slavery. Our blood, labor, and land built this county. And yet, we have inherited red lines, eviction notices, maternal deaths, underfunded schools, and exclusion from wealth-building.</p> <p>And now we are told that "equity" means folding us into general multiculturalism?</p> <p>That's not equity.</p> <p>That's avoidance, and it's a tactic.</p> <p>We are not asking to be included.</p> <p>We are demanding recognition and repair.</p> <p>I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project, and we are calling for the immediate introduction of a new resolution to establish the Commission on Black American Negro Freedmen Affairs with its own mission, legal authority, and developmental pathway rooted in our history and our claim.</p> <p>Vote NO on 36-25. Structural harm demands structural redress.</p>	
2026-01-20 9:28:38	Dr. Bret	Griffin	Silver Spring	MD	20906	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81303/testimony-on-oma.docx

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-20 9:55:30	Sincere	Coles	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening. My name is Sincere Coles, and I am here to demand that this Council vote NO on Resolution 36-25.</p> <p>Let's tell the truth. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is not under attack. It has existed for over 20 years, under four County Executives, Democrats, and Republicans alike with zero threat of dismantling. None of the current candidates for County Executive are calling for its removal.</p> <p>And let's be clear: it's already protected in the County Code.</p> <p>So why this rush to embed it in the Charter?</p> <p>Why now at the exact moment Black American Negro Freedmen (BANF) are demanding their own commission, their own seat at the table, and a pathway to repair?</p> <p>This isn't authentic inclusion. It functions as obstruction. While the Office of Multicultural Affairs grows, Black people are losing ground. We are underrepresented in homeownership. We are overrepresented in subsidized housing. We are dying at higher maternal rates. And we are locked out of public contracts—10.42% of the vendor pool, but only 3.3% of the awards.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 ignores the harm. It avoids the history. And it does not move us toward repair.</p> <p>I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project, and we are demanding the introduction of a new resolution to establish the Commission on Black American Negro Freedmen Affairs with its own mission, legal authority, and development path.</p> <p>Vote NO on 36-25. We cannot allow symbolic inclusion to substitute for structural repair.</p>	
2026-01-20 10:07:48	S "Chetachi"	Bacon	Beaumont	CA	92223	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is S. Chetachi Bacon, I am not a resident of Anne Arundel County, however I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>As a descendant of Foundational Black American Negro Freedmen, I will no longer support government entities using my history and culture as a catalyst to promote other cultures while neglecting my own.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you for this public form.</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-20 10:10:08	Leotis	Fields	S Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Fields , I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>I want to speak tonight about money because budgets reveal values more honestly than words.</p> <p>Resolution 36-25 is being presented as a structural change, but Charter recognition always has budgetary consequences. When an office is elevated, it gains protection, leverage, and priority in future funding decisions — whether that is stated explicitly or not.</p> <p>At the same time, Black American Freedman communities in this County continue to fight for basic investments in housing stability, workforce development, health outcomes, and neighborhood repair often competing for limited, discretionary funding with no guaranteed protection.</p> <p>That imbalance matters.</p> <p>When one framework is made permanent and others remain optional, the budget follows permanence. Priorities become locked in. And communities that have already been under-resourced are once again told to wait their turn.</p> <p>CAP is not saying the County should not fund inclusion. We are saying equity requires balance.</p> <p>Before this Council grants Charter permanence to any office, it must ask whether the communities that paid the highest price in this County's history are being structurally protected in the same way.</p> <p>We respectfully ask this Council to pause Resolution 36-25 and allow community-submitted amendments so funding priorities, equity, and accountability can be addressed together, not after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-01-20 10:18:30	Keepsake Heritage	Foundation	Banning	CA	92220	No	Keepsake Herita	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good Morning County Council Members,</p> <p>Keepsake Heritage Foundation is not based in Anne Arundel County, we are based out of California with members across the United States of America. Keepsake Heritage Foundation is a nationwide organization that promotes cultural retention and heritage preservation of Black Americans who descend from U.S. Chattel Slavery. We stand in solidarity with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2026-01-20 10:23:40	Marcus	Franklin	Laurel	MD	20724	No	Capitol Accounta	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Oppose	<p>Good evening County Council Members.</p> <p>My name is Marcus C. Franklin, I am not a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I stand with the Capitol Accountability Project.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County did not merely contain slavery — it depended on it. It did not merely endure segregation — it enforced it. And Black Americans, Negro, Freedmen and their Descendants were not abstract groups — they were the foundation of this County's economy and governance. Yet, Resolution 36-25 proposes Charter permanence without naming them, without addressing historic harm, and without creating any structural pathway for repair.</p> <p>That omission is not neutral. It has consequences.</p> <p>When government acknowledges harm but refuses to build structures that specifically address the people harmed, it turns history into ceremony — not responsibility.</p> <p>CAP opposes Resolution 36-25 because permanence without specificity repeats the very exclusion this County claims to acknowledge. If this Charter amendment is to move forward, it must do so with honesty, parity, and community input — not speed.</p> <p>Pause Resolution 36-25 and open the process to community-submitted amendments so equity, specificity, and accountability can be ensured.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-01-20 10:45:12	Maricruz	Abarca	Nottingham	MD	21236	No	Latino Providers	Resolution No. 36-25: Proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch	Support		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/81320/legislative-testimony-in-support-of-resolution-no-36-25.docx.pdf



January 9, 2026

Anne Arundel County Council
District 1 – Peter Smith
District 2 – Allison Pickard
District 3 – Nathan Volke
District 4 – Julie Hummer
District 5 – Amanda Fiedler
District 6 – Lisa Brannigan Rodvien
District 7 – Shannon Leadbetter

Dear Councilmembers:

My name is Joseph Godin. I am a business owner with facilities based in Anne Arundel County. My company, American Contracting & Environmental Services which performs construction of water and wastewater treatment facilities, employs 16 hard working Anne Arundel County residents. I am writing to state my strong objection to “Anne Arundel County Bill 100–25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreements.

Government mandated project labor agreements exclude more than 90% of the local construction industry workers who have made the decision to not join a union. Project labor agreements do not help to control the price of a project but have been shown to actually increase the cost of construction projects by as much as 12%-20%.

Merit shop contractors already pay the same wages on county-funded projects through the use of existing prevailing wage rules which require the same mandated apprenticeship standards and pay scales that union contractors use. PLAs will always thwart free and open competition, and will result in a lower pool of bidders as local companies will choose to simply not bid, nor perform the work. This means that jobsites will be filled with out-of-state contractors who take the tax money and wages with them once the job is complete.

PLAs require employers, even non-union employers, to make contributions to union pension funds during the term of the PLA project. Lastly, PLAs increase project cost for no residual benefit to the workers, the government, or the taxpayer. A county council decision to impose costly project labor agreements would be damaging to those same constituents you took an oath to represent.

I urge you to stand for fairness and fiscal stewardship by opposing government mandated PLA laws in particular “Anne Arundel County Bill Number 100–25”.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County.

We are the 90% who build Maryland.

Very truly yours,

Joseph P. Godin

Joseph P. Godin
President



January 5, 2026

The Honorable Julie Hummer
Chair, Anne Arundel County Council
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Anne Arundel County, Maryland – Bill Number 100-25
Purchasing-Procurement-Project Labor Agreements**

Dear Councilmember Hummer:

I am writing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies Maryland (ACEC/MD), representing 75 engineering firms employing over 6,700 professionals in the State of Maryland. The American Council of Engineering Companies Maryland is a State Member Organization of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the nation's engineering association representing more than 5,600 engineering firms and over 600,000 engineers, surveyors, architects and other specialists nationwide.

We wish to convey our industry's concerns regarding Anne Arundel County Bill Number 100-25 requiring Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for county construction projects with estimated costs of over \$10 million or more.

As background for your information and consideration, employees of engineering firms perform critical roles on construction sites. These include field representatives and surveyors monitoring that the work is being performed in compliance with design documents. To perform this work, these personnel must remain independent and objective.

ACEC/MD and ACEC believe that employees of engineering firms should be specifically excluded from being parties to PLAs.

ACEC secured an exemption for Architecture/Engineering services from PLAs on federal construction projects.

Union by-laws often prohibit members from creating conflicts within the ranks or prohibit a union member from being critical of another member's work. ACEC believes that this potential conflict of interest is clear and must be recognized, as a conflict of interest could potentially compromise overall project success, weaken public safety and create a liability to the engineering firm.

PLA coverage could potentially create a conflict of interest in pitting the field representative's independent oversight role against the interests of union members among the construction workers. ACEC is concerned that the quality assurance/quality control role could be compromised if engineering field representatives and surveyors are not specifically excluded from PLA coverage.

Since PLAs require contractors to operate under union-specific labor terms, requiring PLAs on projects could also exclude or discourage qualified engineering firms from bidding, thereby reducing competition and leading to higher project costs, ultimately burdening county taxpayers.

Our industry is committed to delivering high-quality, safe and cost-effective infrastructure projects for the communities we serve.

We believe that government-mandated PLAs can undermine these goals by creating conflicts of interest for engineering staff, restricting open competition, increasing project costs and limiting workforce flexibility – and that employees of engineering firms should be exempt from being parties to PLAs.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and would welcome further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Maria K. Donovan

Maria K. Donovan
Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland
86 Maryland Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
mdonovan@acecmd.org

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

Backgrounder for Anne Arundel County



WHAT IS A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT?

Project labor agreements (PLAs) have been used for generations. PLAs are unique to the construction industry—they are collective bargaining agreements between building trade unions and contractors. PLAs govern terms and conditions of employment for all craft workers—union and nonunion—on a construction project. They protect taxpayers by eliminating costly delays due to labor conflicts or shortages of skilled workers. PLAs are not “one size fits all.” They are customized, individually negotiated agreements that can vary from project to project based on an owner’s goals, as well as the size, scope, and type of work to be performed.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY IS LAGGING BEHIND MARYLAND AND LOCAL JURISDICTIONS IN ADOPTING PLAs

Anne Arundel County repealed its ban on project labor agreements in 2019,¹ but six years later has not moved forward with applying them to county construction projects. In contrast, the federal government, State of Maryland, and several local jurisdictions across the DMV are using PLAs. For example:

- On June 12, 2025, the Trump administration issued guidance (OMB M-25-29) that *maintains and encourages* the use of PLAs on **federal** construction projects valued at \$35 million or more, building on Biden's Executive Order 14063.²
- On November 17, 2023, Governor Moore issued an executive order authorizing **Maryland** state agencies to consider the requirement for or voluntary use of PLAs for projects where the state commitment is \$20 million or more.³ The Moore Administration identified nine candidate projects for PLAs, in addition to the reconstruction of the Key Bridge, which is being built with a PLA. An RFP with a PLA was recently issued for one of Moore’s candidate projects.
- On December 22, 2025, **Baltimore City** Mayor Brandon Scott announced that four priority capital projects will be built under a PLA: the rehabilitation of three pumping stations—Dundalk, Ashburton, and Quad—and the Sparrows Point Alt Outfall project.⁴
- Under the leadership of **Montgomery County** Executive Marc Elrich, the RFP for the MD 355 Flash Bus Rapid Transit Project, released on August 23, 2024, included a PLA.⁵ The project was awarded on December 12, 2025 with a PLA. Similarly, Montgomery County’s RFP for the Zero Emission Bus Depot, issued on October 4, 2024, anticipates the use of PLA.⁶
- On September 28, 2023 **the Prince George’s County** Board of Education voted to require a PLA on the school system’s P3 Phase II construction of 8 schools valued at \$800 million.⁷ On November 14, 2023, the Prince George’s County Council enacted CB91-2023 requiring all county projects valued at more than \$35 million to have a PLA approved by the PLA Coordinating Committee and submitted to the County Executive.⁸
- On September 19, 2023, the **Loudoun County**, Virginia Board of Supervisors directed staff to proceed with a pilot PLA on the construction of the General Government Office Building-Phase 1, and on October 17, 2023, Board directed staff to proceed with a pilot PLA on the construction of Route 15 Widening - Whites Ferry Road to Montresor Road.⁹ The General Government Office Building-Phase 1 is currently in design review, and the Route 15 project will be procured in FY26.

- On November 22, 2022, the **City of Alexandria** approved a resolution to amend its FY 2024 Budget Guidance to consider the use of PLAs on seven upcoming capital projects,¹⁰ including its City Hall Renovation project which has a PLA and will begin construction later this year.
- On November 16, 2022, the **Metro Washington Airports Authority** Board of Directors adopted a resolution to require PLAs on federally funded construction contracts valued at \$35 million or more.¹¹
- On September 21, 2021, the **Fairfax County**, Virginia Board of Supervisors included a pilot PLA on the Accotink Pump Station Rehabilitation project.¹² Construction began in September 2024 and will be completed in 2028.
- In 2016, the **District of Columbia** City Council passed the Procurement Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability Amendment Act of 2015, which included a requirement that construction projects with an anticipated value of \$75 million or more include a project labor agreement.¹³ In 2024, the threshold was lowered to \$50 million.¹⁴

BENEFITS OF PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

More workforce opportunities for the County's underserved and struggling residents

Although Anne Arundel County is relatively affluent, it does have residents who are struggling. According to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, in 2025 more than one-third of county residents qualified as Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households. ALICE households are those that earn above the federal poverty level but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their local area, meaning they struggle to afford their necessities. One of the most impoverished areas of the county is Brooklyn Park, which has a poverty rate of 22.3%—more than four times higher than the rest of the county. And as of year-end 2024, the Black and Hispanic rates of unemployment in Anne Arundel County are twice and three times (respectively) the rate of Whites.¹⁵

PLAs will complement the Anne Arundel Works program that seeks to connect residents to quality employment opportunities. That's because PLAs can include local hiring requirements that target neighborhoods or zip codes like Brookland Park (Zip Code 21225). PLAs across a series of projects will create a pipeline of work that makes it possible for apprentices to receive sufficient hours on the job to sustain themselves and progress toward journey-level status. Finally, research has shown that workers who join the construction trades through PLAs are more likely to earn good wages and benefits, and get access to a career pathway with long-term stability and advancement opportunities.

Higher wages for Anne Arundel County residents

PLAs can help build a unionized construction workforce across Anne Arundel County. A unionized construction workforce facilitates collective bargaining to negotiate wages. According to an analysis of 2012-2016 Current Population Survey data, a worker covered by a union contract earns on average 13.2 percent more than a peer with similar education, occupation, and experience in a nonunionized workplace in the same sector.¹⁶ Decades earlier, when a larger share of American workers were unionized, the wage premium was even greater. For example, a 2002 study that compared workers with similar characteristics and adjusted for several potential sources of bias found that union representation raised wages by 23.2 percent, on average.¹⁷

Research also shows that unions can raise wages for other workers in the same industry through several channels, collectively known as spillover effects.¹⁸

- As more people in a given industry gain union representation, nonunion employers have to raise wages to compete for workers who prefer better-paid union jobs.
- If employers prefer to avoid organizing drives among their own employees, they may offer higher wages to reduce the incentive for workers to organize. Employers are more likely to do this if unions are a strong force in the local labor market.

- Unions serve as part of a norm-setting process in which workers and employers set expectations for the conditions of work. As more workers in an industry join together to negotiate for better pay, the standard for what is considered a reasonable wage increases.

Another study estimated the size of union spillover effects for workers with different levels of education using relatively conservative methods.¹⁹ This study found that if 25 percent of local workers in an industry are represented, wages for nonunion workers with a high school diploma rise by between 2 percent and 5.5 percent as a result. This implies that each percentage-point increase in the share of represented workers is expected to result in about a 0.15 percent increase in wages for nonunion workers.²⁰

Less wage theft

A recent study found that workers not covered by unions are twice as likely to experience minimum wage violations as those covered by a union contract.²¹ According to the study's authors, "workers are less likely to be victims of wage theft when they have bargaining power."

Less income inequality

A direct correlation exists between the rise of income inequality and the decline in union membership.²² A U.S. Department of the Treasury August 2023 report found that union membership peaked in 1945, but has declined since then. As union membership declined, income inequality worsened, and it is now at its worst point since the Great Depression. The Treasury Department's report concludes pro-union policies can make considerable difference to middle-class households by raising their incomes, improving their work environments, and boosting their job satisfaction. In doing so, unions also help to make the economy more equitable and robust.

Less reliance on safety net services

The unionization that PLAs bring can reduce residents' need for and use of public assistance. According to a 2018 study by University of Minnesota researchers on the effects of union membership, unionized workers overall contribute more in tax revenue, rely less on welfare, and secure more sustainable jobs. The analysis, which used CPS data from 1994 to 2015, found that union members' average yearly income (about \$48,000) was roughly \$7,400, or 16 percent, more than what nonunion workers earned. The study authors determined that unionized workers have greater economic security, using about 23 percent less in public benefits compared to nonunion peers.²³

Greater access to health insurance and retirement benefits

A strong relationship exists between union membership and health insurance coverage. A 2022 study by Professor Luke Petach and Assistant Professor David Wyants published in the *International Journal of Health Economics and Management* found a distinct union advantage. Using multiple statistical models and data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey for 1996–2019, the authors identified that, compared to non-union workers, union workers are more likely to have health insurance coverage (98% vs. 86%), more likely to have a regular care provider (83% vs. 74%), visit office-based providers more often (5.64 vs. 4.27 visits), spend \$832 more on healthcare annually, and pay a lower share of their expenditures out-of-pocket (26% vs. 37%).²⁴

In addition, union workers are more likely than nonunion workers to have retirement benefits. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of March 2023, 94% of private industry union workers and 68% of private industry nonunion workers had access to retirement benefits through their employer. Among those with access, 84% percent of union workers and 50% of nonunion workers participated in an employer-sponsored retirement benefit plan. The take up rate—the share of workers with access who participate in the plan—was 90 percent for union workers and 73 percent for nonunion workers.²⁵

Improved productivity on Anne Arundel County construction projects

PLAs facilitate efficient management and improved productivity of construction projects. They require unions to waive their right to strike or engage in other labor actions, which reduces conflicts on the work site. In addition, PLAs often include important provisions concerning the supply of workers and the coordination of work.²⁶ Access to union hiring halls and apprenticeship programs can guarantee a supply of qualified workers, and coordination among union locals can mean fast access to extra labor when it is needed. Harmonized schedules, work rules, and responsibilities promote smooth operations and prevent conflicts before they arise. Cooperation between labor and management through safety committees can reduce injuries. These provisions are especially important because construction work sites can be dangerous.²⁷

Research suggests that unions create safer workplaces because union workers, protected by their unions, are more likely to report injuries and near misses.²⁸ A 2017 survey commissioned by the Center for Construction Research and Training found that construction companies that employ at least some union workers are more likely to perform safety best practices and undergo OSHA training than those with no union employees.²⁹

PLAs also increase productivity by reducing recruitment and training costs caused by turnover. A large number of studies have found that fair pay, good benefits, and union representation lead workers to stay at the same job for longer. Because searching for a new job involves time, effort, and risk, workers are less likely to do it if they are satisfied at their current job.³⁰ When workers are dissatisfied and quit, it costs employers increased overtime to cover shifts, hours spent on training rather than other tasks, and new employees who can take weeks or months to reach full productivity.

footnotes

¹ <https://www.aacounty.org/county-council/legislation/bill-56-19>

² [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-29-Use-of-Project-Labor-Agreements-on-Federal-Construction-Projects-Amendments-to-OMB-Memorandum-M-24-06.pdf#:~:text=For%20clarity%2C%20the%20Trump%20Administration%20supports%20the%20use%20of%20PLAs%20when&text=Executive%20Order%20\(E.O.\)14063%20remains%20in%20effect%20with%20further](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-29-Use-of-Project-Labor-Agreements-on-Federal-Construction-Projects-Amendments-to-OMB-Memorandum-M-24-06.pdf#:~:text=For%20clarity%2C%20the%20Trump%20Administration%20supports%20the%20use%20of%20PLAs%20when&text=Executive%20Order%20(E.O.)14063%20remains%20in%20effect%20with%20further)

³ <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-signs-workforce-development-executive-order-for-state-public-works-projects.aspx>

⁴ <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2025-12-22-mayor-brandon-m-scott-announces-baltimore-citys-first-project-labor>

⁵ <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/private/solicitations/4238731215/abstract>

⁶ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66e34cf46061cf50d2482597/t/66ed96eaaa956c615c7be693/1726846710256/Montgomery+County+Maryland+RFQ.pdf>

⁷ <https://dbknews.com/2023/09/29/prince-georges-board-of-education-project-labor-agreement/>

⁸ <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/立法Detail.aspx?ID=6356186&GUID=F16C96EB-8B63-4C67-A978-F7F451A57AB&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=project+labor>

⁹ <https://www.loudoun.gov/3426/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings-Packets>

¹⁰ https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/Section%202015%20Capital%20Improvement%20Program%20Overview%20FY24%20Approved_0.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.mwaa.com/sites/mwaa.com/files/inline-files/Resolution%202022-35%20-%2020Implementing%20a%20Project%20Labor%20Agreement%20Requirement%20for%20Certain%20Federally%20Funded%20Construction%20Projects.pdf>

¹² <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardsupervisors/sites/boardsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2021/sept21-legislative-plabriefing.pdf>

¹³ <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B21-0397>

¹⁴ <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B25-0469>

¹⁵ <https://www.aacounty.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/cfaac-2025-needs-assessment-viii.pdf>

¹⁶ See page 9 and footnote 20 in Josh Bivens et al, "How Today's Unions Help Working People," *Economic Policy Institute*, August 24, 2017.

¹⁷ Barry Hirsch and Edward Schumacher, "Unions, Wage, and Skills," *Journal of Labor Economics*, 2002.

¹⁸ Walters and Mishel, "How Unions Help all Workers." http://www.epi.org/publication/briefingpapers_bp143/.

¹⁹ Henry Farber, "Nonunion Wage Rates and the Threat of Unionization," *NBER Working Paper Series* 9705, May 2003, <http://www.nber.org/papers/w9705.pdf>.

²⁰ This estimate assumes a spillover effect in the middle of the range found by the researchers: 3.75 percent higher wages when a quarter of local workers in an industry are unionized. The estimate applies only to nonunion workers whose highest level of education is a high school diploma.

²¹ David Cooper and Teresa Kroeger, *Employers Steal Billions from Workers' Paychecks Each Year: Survey Data Shows Millions of Workers Are Paid Less Than the Minimum Wage, at Significant Cost to Taxpayers and State Economies*, Economic Policy Institute, May 10, 2017.

²² <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/labor-unions-and-the-us-economy>

²³ Aaron Sojourner and Jose Pacas, *The Relationship Between Union Membership and Net Fiscal Impact*, Institute for Labor Economics, January 2018 (<http://ftp.iza.org/dp11310.pdf>)

²⁴ Luke Petach and David Wyant, The union advantage: union membership, access to care, and the Affordable Care Act, *International Journal of Health Economics and Management* (2023) 23:1–26, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9261128/pdf/10754_2022_Article_9336.pdf

²⁵ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ews2.pdf>

²⁶ Matthew Bodah and Dale Belman, "Building Better: A Look at Best Practices for the Design of Project Labor Agreements," *Economic Policy Institute*, August 12, 2010, http://www.epi.org/publication/building_better_a_look_at_best_practices_for_the_design_of_project_labor/.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Josh Bivens et al, "How Today's Unions Help Working People," *Economic Policy Institute*, August 24, 2017, p. 11.

²⁹ Survey: Construction firms with union workers more likely to engage in safety best practices, training, Training, Safety and Health Magazine, September 19, 2018.

³⁰ John Schmitt, "Why Does the Minimum Wage Have No Discernable Effect on Employment?" *Center for Economic and Policy Research*, February 2013.

PLA Talking Points



SUMMARY OF PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT BENEFITS

- PLAs **increase productivity** by ensuring a predictable timeline. PLAs guarantee no strikes or lockouts.
- PLAs **create wage stability** by ensuring that everyone on a construction project gets paid regularly and at the area standard rate, which prevents unscrupulous contractors from underbidding local competition.
- PLAs **promote high-quality apprenticeship programs**. They provide clear guidelines around apprenticeship programs and ensure that contractors and subcontractors performing work are participants in state/federally registered apprenticeship programs.
- PLAs **help small and minority-owned businesses**. PLAs typically include package/scope of work thresholds so that small and MBE businesses are ensured participation. PLAs also often include specific programs that help MBEs grow and bid more work.
- PLAs **are good for safety**. A [Michigan University study](#) showed that safety violations are far less likely to occur on jobs with PLAs because PLAs include provisions that require and verify that contractors and subcontractors comply with all federal, state, and local safety laws.
- PLAs **create workforce opportunities for underserved residents**. PLAs can include zip-code specific targeted hiring programs.

PLA MYTHS AND FACTS

Myth	Fact
PLAs lead to higher construction costs	Studies show that PLAs have a negligible effect on the cost of construction due to increased productivity and avoidance of change orders that result from attracting higher-quality contractors. Studies reporting higher construction costs often overlook inflation, regional differences, and change orders.
PLAs are a hand-out to union contractors, because PLAs require contractors and subcontractors to pay union rates.	All contractors, union and non-union, can bid on jobs covered by PLAs. Standards outlined in PLAs seek to ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are acting responsibly and in accord with community values. State agencies, regional authorities, and localities should have the ability to attach standards such as local hiring, apprenticeship programs, area standard wages, and safety.
PLAs are bad for business.	Many businesses prefer PLAs because of the stability they provide. PLAs help law-abiding businesses compete against businesses that cut corners and fail to play by the rules. PLAs are common across the country and are used by the federal government, state and local governments, and many Fortune 500 companies like Wal-Mart and Toyota.
PLAs use of union hiring halls disadvantages companies that want to use their own employees.	All workers can get dispatched through a union hiring hall. Hiring halls ensure that workers dispatched get proper training, pensions, and health care coverage for the duration of the project. PLAs also typically have key men provisions.
PLAs disadvantage women, small business, and minority contractors.	PLAs often include programs to help these businesses grow and bid more work in the future.
PLAs require union apprenticeship programs, which disadvantages non-union contractors.	PLAs require contractor and subcontractor participation in state & federally registered apprenticeship programs, sometimes with additional criteria that seeks to verify the success of apprenticeship programs, such as graduation rates and on-the-job training.

Examples of Recent Baltimore-Washington Area PLA Projects			
Project Name	Location	Value	Construction Status
Maryland			
Blueprint Schools Phase II	Prince George's County	\$2B	Underway
Purple Line	Prince George's and Montgomery Counties	\$3.4B	Underway
Susquehanna River Bridge	Harford County	\$1.5B	Underway
Frederick Douglass Tunnel (Package A)	Baltimore City	\$1B	Underway
Frederick Douglass Tunnel (Package B)	Baltimore City	\$1B	Underway
Key Bridge Rebuild	Baltimore City/Baltimore County/ Anne Arundel County	\$2B	Underway
Building 154 (Indian Head Naval Base)	Charles County	\$50M	Underway
Andrews Hangar Renovation Project	Prince George's County	\$35M	Completed
Washington, DC			
Monumental Sports and Entertainment Arena	District of Columbia	\$800M	Underway
FEMS OSSE Facility (DC DGS)	District of Columbia	\$115M	Underway
Tyler Elementary School	District of Columbia	\$100M	FY2026
Hart Elementary School	District of Columbia	\$123M	FY2026
Whittier Elementary School	District of Columbia	\$91.8M	FY2026
Howard University Hospital	District of Columbia	\$650M	Planning
Banneker High School	District of Columbia	\$125M	Completed
Cedar Hill Regional Memorial Hospital	District of Columbia	\$350M	Completed
Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge	District of Columbia	\$450M	Completed
DC United Soccer Stadium	District of Columbia	\$300M	Completed
Wizards Practice Facility	District of Columbia	\$69M	Completed
DC Water Clean River Tunnels	District of Columbia	\$2B	Completed
Virginia			
Accotink Pump Station	Fairfax County	\$72M	Underway
Tier-2 Concourse East (Dulles Airport)	Loudoun County	\$600M	Underway
Alexandria City Hall Renovations	Alexandria	\$300M	FY 2026
Long Bridge North (Virginia Passenger Rail Authority)	Arlington County/DC	\$800M	FY 2026
Gateway Park	Arlington County	\$31M	FY 2027
Ballston-West Entrance	Arlington County	\$177M	Final Design

**Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>**

Fwd: BILL 100-25 Concerns

Allison Pickard <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>
Cc: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:02 PM

Kaley - forwarding more 100-25 emails for the file

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: BILL 100-25 Concerns

To: <petersmith@aacounty.org>, <Linda.harris@aacounty.org>, <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>, <nathan.volke@aacounty.org>, <jhummer@aacounty.org>, <amanda.fiedler@aaco.org>, <lisa.rodvien@aaco.org>, <sleadbetter@aaco.org>

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a local taxpaying resident living in Anne Arundel County, MD. As an employee of Allan Myers, any job with a Mandated PLA would prevent me from working on the Project for I choose not to be part of any Union. My Family and I believe in Fair Competition, and demand the county council reject Bill 100-25

Brandon Jones

[REDACTED] Odenton, MD, 21113

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Allison M. Pickard

Anne Arundel County Council - Second District
44 Calvert Street, 1st Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office 410-222-1401
Cell 240-281-8052
Allison.Pickard@AACounty.org

To sign up to receive District 2 email newsletters click [HERE](#).

**Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>**

Fwd: Proposed PLA Bill 100-25

Kristin Etzel <Kristin.Etzel@aacounty.org>
To: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:17 PM

Forwarding for the Bill file.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Allison Pickard** <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 4:33 PM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed PLA Bill 100-25
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Corey McCarthy** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 7:53 AM
Subject: Proposed PLA Bill 100-25
To: petersmith@aacounty.org <petersmith@aacounty.org>, allison.pickard@aacounty.org <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>, jhummer@aacounty.org <jhummer@aacounty.org>, lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org <lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org>, nathan.volke@aacounty.org <nathan.volke@aacounty.org>, amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org <amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org>, SLeadbetter@aacounty.org <SLeadbetter@aacounty.org>

Good Morning County Councilmembers,

I work with and am one of the partners of American Contracting & Environmental Services. We are a local, open/merit shop based Environmental Contractor/Construction Company in Maryland and have been working with AA County for over 2 decades now. I'm writing this email to you today to voice my opposition to the proposed bill that would require PLA's on all County funded construction projects.

The type of work we do keeps AA County's water and wastewater pumping stations and treatment plants operating and functioning properly, and serving all of the County's residents with fresh drinking water and sewer services. There are only a small handful of us Water/Wastewater contractors in the area that work with AA County DPW and as far as I know, we are all open shop/merit shop contractors. Union workers are not performing the County's DPW projects now, the local residents are, that work for American Contracting and our competitors.

Nearly 90% of Maryland construction workers are non-union and would be ineligible to work on projects subject to a mandated PLA. PLA's would pretty much ice out all of AA County's current roster of contractors that execute their projects.

Mandated PLAs limit bidders, undermine open and competitive bidding, and ultimately increase construction costs by an estimated 12%–20%, costs Anne Arundel County cannot afford given the current budget challenges.

Additionally, PLAs disproportionately impact minority- and women-owned businesses, which often operate on thinner margins and are less able to absorb the additional costs imposed by mandated PLAs. Mandated PLAs significantly restrict the available workforce, creating particular hardship for small and minority businesses across Maryland.

Thank you for reading and considering my email here.

Sincerely,

Corey McCarthy, DBIA

Vice President of Construction



www.aceservinc.com



Scan here to easily add my Business Card!



--
Allison M. Pickard

Anne Arundel County Council - Second District



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Please oppose Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25

Kristin Etzel <Kristin.Etzel@aacounty.org>
To: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:19 PM

Forwarding for the Bill file.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Allison Pickard** <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
Date: Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: Please oppose Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Whitehurst** [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Jan 9, 2026 at 10:02 AM
Subject: Please oppose Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25
To: allison.pickard@aacounty.org <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>

My name is David Whitehurst. I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

Government mandated project labor agreements exclude more than 90% of the local construction industry workers who have made the decision to not join a union. Project labor agreements do not help to control the price of a project but have been shown to actually increase the cost of construction projects by as much as 12%-20%.

Merit shop contractors already pay the same wages on county-funded projects through the use of existing prevailing wage rules which require the same mandated apprenticeship standards and pay scales that union contractors use. PLAs will always thwart free and open competition, and will result in a lower pool of bidders as local companies will choose to simply not bid, nor perform the work. This means that jobsites will be filled with out-of-state contractors who take the tax money and wages with them once the job is complete.

PLAs require employers, even non-union employers, to make contributions to union pension funds during the term of the PLA project. Lastly, PLAs increase project cost for no residual benefit to the workers, the government, or the taxpayer. A county council decision to impose costly project labor agreements would be damaging to those same constituents you took an oath to represent.

I urge you to stand for fairness and fiscal stewardship by opposing government mandated PLA laws in particular "Anne Arundel County Bill Number 100-25".

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County.

We are the 90% who build Maryland,

David Whitehurst

Gray & Son

[REDACTED]

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Allison M. Pickard

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To sign up to receive District 2 email newsletters click [HERE](#).

--

Kristin M. Etzel

Legislative Assistant

Councilwoman Allison Pickard - District 2

Council Office: 410-222-1401

To sign up to receive Councilwoman Pickard's District 2 email newsletters click [HERE](#).

**Please note: Correspondence with the County Council Member or Legislative Aide becomes part of the public domain and may be subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act or the Anne Arundel County Charter.



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: opposition

Allison Pickard <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>
Cc: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:03 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 11:20 AM
Subject: opposition
To: <petersmith@aacounty.org>
Cc: <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>, <nathan.volke@aacounty.org>, <jhummer@aacounty.org>, <amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org>, <lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org>, <SLeadbetter@aacounty.org>

I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

Government mandated project labor agreements exclude more than 90% of the local construction industry workers who have made the decision to not join a union. Project labor agreements do not help to control the price of a project but have been shown to actually increase the cost of construction projects by as much as 12%-20%.

Merit shop contractors already pay the same wages on county-funded projects through the use of existing prevailing wage rules which require the same mandated apprenticeship standards and pay scales that union contractors use. PLAs will always thwart free and open competition, and will result in a lower pool of bidders as local companies will choose to simply not bid, nor perform the work. This means that jobsites will be filled with out-of-state contractors who take the tax money and wages with them once the job is complete.

PLAs require employers, even non-union employers, to make contributions to union pension funds during the term of the PLA project. Lastly, PLAs increase project cost for no residual benefit to the workers, the government, or the taxpayer. A county council decision to impose costly project labor agreements would be damaging to those same constituents you took an oath to represent.

I urge you to stand for fairness and fiscal stewardship by opposing government mandated PLA laws in particular "Anne Arundel County Bill Number 100-25".

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County.

We are the 90% who build Maryland,

Frank Listmann

B&L Electric Co., Inc.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Arnold MD 21012](#)

--

My name is Kristopher M. Davis. I am an Anne Arundel County resident and have been for the past 51 years, and my family business has been performing Capital Contracts in the County since 1968. I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

Government mandated project labor agreements exclude more than 90% or more of the local construction industry workers who have made the decision to not join a union. Project labor agreements do not help to control the price of a project but have been shown to actually increase the cost of construction projects by as much as 12%-20%. We are members of the Utility Contractors Association of Anne Arundel County. Of those members, 0% of our contractor members are affiliated with Unions. Why is that the case? It's because our workers chose NOT to join a Union.

Merit shop contractors already pay the same wages, if not more, on county-funded projects through the use of existing prevailing wage rules which require the same mandated apprenticeship standards and pay scales that union contractors use. PLAs will always thwart free and open competition, and will result in a lower pool of bidders as local companies will choose to simply not bid, nor perform the work. This means that jobsites will be filled with out-of-state contractors who take the tax money and wages with them once the job is complete.

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I urge you to stand for fairness and fiscal stewardship by opposing government mandated PLA laws in particular "Anne Arundel County Bill Number 100-25".

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County.

We are the 90% who build Maryland,

Kristoper M. Davis
Cossentino Contracting Co., Inc.
8505 Contractors Road
Baltimore, MD 21237
[REDACTED]

Home

[REDACTED]
Pasadena, MD 21122

**Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>**

Fwd: PLEASE READ

Allison Pickard <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>
Cc: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:03 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kimberly Lucas** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 9:21 AM
Subject: PLEASE READ
To: <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>

Dear Councilmember Pickard,

Please vote "No" to AACO Bill 100-25. This bill will put undue hardship on my family and 90% of AACO Contractors that are Non-Union Contractors. This would limit competition and ultimately increase construction costs and estimated 12-20%. My family and I do not support Bill 100-25.

Kimberly Lucas
[REDACTED]

[Odenton, MD 21113](#)

--
Allison M. Pickard

Anne Arundel County Council - Second District
44 Calvert Street, 1st Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office 410-222-1401
Cell 240-281-8052
Allison.Pickard@AACounty.org

To sign up to receive District 2 email newsletters click [HERE](#).



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Oppose or Withdraw AA Co Bill #100-25 (PLA)

Allison Pickard <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
 To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>
 Cc: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:04 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Crase** [REDACTED]
 Date: Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 2:10 PM
 Subject: Oppose or Withdraw AA Co Bill #100-25 (PLA)
 To: <petersmith@aacounty.org>
 Cc: <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>, <nathan.volke@aacounty.org>, <jhummer@aacounty.org>, <amanda.fielder@aacounty.org>, <lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org>, <sleadbetter@aacounty.com>, Michael Crase
 [REDACTED]

My name is Mike Crase and I am a 50 year Anne Arundel County resident. My wife and I own multiple properties and businesses. I write this note as a resident, business owner, taxpayer - but maybe more important as a 30+ year local construction and real estate development executive. I work for a national construction firm with both union and non-union experience, principally dependent on location.

AA County does not NEED this legislation. This legislation would only benefit a very small portion of AA County taxpayers, but cost 100% of the taxpayers. Because this region is not a strong union area the benefits of a PLA are reduced.

Consider the following:

- Very few AA County businesses are signatory to local unions, so these firms will no longer be able to bid AA County projects
- Very few minority firms are signatory to unions, so these firms will no longer be able to bid on AA County projects
- PLAs add costs to projects, given wage and benefit requirements, limited bid competition, and additional paperwork and fees required

Anecdote 1 - I was personally involved in PG County's Phase I bundled P3 school project (6 schools with construction value of about \$500M). We pursued Phase II schools bundle (8 schools) but were not awarded Phase II. The winning firm submitted a bid of approximately \$700M, however the County Council did not approve the contract demanding a PLA after the fact. The selected contractor had to rebid the 8 schools resulting in a cost increase of \$70 million.

Politically active labor unions influenced this decision resulting in significant costs to the taxpayer. Minority businesses in PG County objected to this decision.

If your basis for passing this legislation is equity, diversity and affordability it is NONE of these. If you pass this legislation it will have a negative impact on local AA County businesses (most non-union), minority businesses (most non-union) and the taxpayer who will pay inflated costs forever!

Happy to discuss this with anyone.
 Mike Crase 301-325-6011

Anecdote 2 - After 50 years my wife and I became Florida residents principally due to progressive legislative policies that have failed and added costs. This legislation is both. Let AA County and minority firms have the ability to compete for AA County business....not out of County union shops.

--

Allison M. Pickard

Anne Arundel County Council - Second District
 44 Calvert Street, 1st Floor



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Opposition to AA Co 100-25 PLA Bill

Kristin Etzel <Kristin.Etzel@aacounty.org>
To: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:17 PM

Forwarding for the Bill file.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Iacoboni [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 4:13 PM
Subject: Opposition to AA Co 100-25 PLA Bill
To:
Cc: Whitney Beall <[REDACTED]>

We are a site construction firm performing work throughout Maryland, with a large portion in Anne Arundel County. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill No. 100-25, recently introduced by Councilman Pete Smith, which would require Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on county-funded construction projects.

While I understand the intent to foster dialogue on this issue, I believe that mandating PLAs would have significant negative impacts on Anne Arundel County's construction industry, local contractors, and the many county residents they employ. Such a requirement could limit fair competition, increase project costs, and reduce opportunities for qualified local businesses that do not operate under a PLA framework.

Industry representatives, including members of the UCA of Anne Arundel County, AUC of Maryland, and ABC Chesapeake Shores, have been actively engaging with council members to share these concerns. Our recent discussion with Councilwoman Pickard highlighted that the bill requires substantial revision before it should be considered further.

Given the tight timeline, I urge you to carefully consider the perspectives of local contractors and employees before the upcoming council work session on **January 13**. Although public testimony will not be heard at that meeting, I hope you will take into account the feedback from those directly impacted by this legislation.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to making informed decisions that support both our county's economic health and its workforce.

Sincerely,

Tom Iacoboni

President, Iacoboni Site Specialists, Inc.



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Bill 100-25 PLA Opposition

Allison Pickard <Allison.Pickard@aacounty.org>
To: Kristin Etzel <ccetze33@aacounty.org>
Cc: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:03 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Whitney Beall** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 11:55 AM
Subject: Bill 100-25 PLA Opposition
To: allison.pickard@aacounty.org <allison.pickard@aacounty.org>

Dear Allison Pickard,

My name is Whitney Beall. I was born & raised in Anne Arundel County, own land here, and have worked in Anne Arundel County my whole life. I was fortunate to be raised in a family of hard-working construction business owners. I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

Government mandated project labor agreements exclude more than 90% of the local construction industry workers who have made the decision to not join a union. Project labor agreements do not help to control the price of a project but have been shown to actually increase the cost of construction projects by as much as 12%-20%.

Merit shop contractors already pay the same wages on county-funded projects through the use of existing prevailing wage rules which require the same mandated apprenticeship standards and pay scales that union contractors use. PLAs will always thwart free and open competition, and will result in a lower pool of bidders as local companies will choose to simply not bid, nor perform the work. This means that jobsites will be filled with out-of-state contractors who take the tax money and wages with them once the job is complete.

PLAs require employers, even non-union employers, to make contributions to union pension funds during the term of the PLA project and they will never see the benefits of these contributions. Lastly, PLAs increase project cost for no residual benefit to the workers, the government, or the taxpayer. A county council decision to impose costly project labor agreements would be damaging to those same constituents you took an oath to represent.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County. I urge you to vote against this bill or at the very least support a work group to explore the true cost of passing this bill.

We are the 90% who build Maryland! Do not hurt the very hard working, tax payers who live and work here in Anne Arundel County and please stop this bill in any form.

Whitney Beall

[REDACTED] Lothian, MD 20711

--
Allison M. Pickard

Anne Arundel County Council - Second District
44 Calvert Street, 1st Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office 410-222-1401
Cell 240-281-8052
Allison.Pickard@AACounty.org

To sign up to receive District 2 email newsletters click [HERE](#).

My name is William Brown. I am an Anne Arundel County resident and have been for the past several years. I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

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Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to free and open competition for all employers and taxpayers of Anne Arundel County.

We are the 90% who build Maryland,

William Brown
D&D Drilling, Inc.


My name is William Brown. I am writing to state my strong objection to "Anne Arundel County Bill 100-25 establishing requirements for the use of project labor agreement".

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We are the 90% who build Maryland,

William Brown
D&D Drilling, Inc.
