

PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 6

Bill No. 23-26

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, March 19, 2026

Introduced and first read on March 19, 2026
Public Hearing set for April 20, 2026
Bill Expires June 22, 2026

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Ethics – Definitions – Campaign Contributions –
2 Subdivision and Development – Mandatory Disclosures

3
4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain campaign contributions; providing remedies for a
5 violation of the prohibition against certain campaign contributions; requiring certain
6 disclosures from applicants for certain development approvals; and generally relating
7 to public ethics and subdivision and development.

8
9 BY renumbering: §§ 7-1-101(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) through (21), (22) through (24), (25), and
10 (26) to be §§ 7-1-101(3), (4), (6), (7), (11) through (27), (29) through (31), (32), and
11 (34), respectively; and §§ 7-8-101 through 7-8-103, and the title “Title 8. Enforcement”
12 to be §§ 7-9-101 through 7-9-103, respectively, and the title “Title 9. Enforcement”
13 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

14
15 BY adding: §§ 7-1-101(1), (2), (5), (8) through (10), (28), (33) and (35), respectively; and
16 7-8-101 through 7-8-105, respectively, under the new title “Title 8. Campaign
17 Contribution”; and 17-2-112
18 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

19
20 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
21 That §§ 7-1-101(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) through (21), (22) through (24), (25), and (26),
22 respectively, are hereby renumbered to be §§ 7-1-101(3), (4), (6), (7), (11) through (27),
23 (29) through (31), (32), and (34), respectively; and §§ 7-8-101 through 7-8-103, and the
24 title “Title 8. Enforcement”, respectively, are hereby renumbered to be §§ 7-9-101 through

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law and taglines.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law and taglines.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.

1 7-9-103, and the title “Title 9. Enforcement”, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County
2 Code (2005, as amended).

3
4 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted*, That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County
5 Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

6
7 **ARTICLE 7. PUBLIC ETHICS**

8
9 **TITLE 1. IN GENERAL**

10
11 **7-1-101. Definitions.**

12
13 In this article, the following words have the meanings indicated unless a different
14 definition is adopted for a particular provision or the context clearly requires a different
15 meaning.

16
17 (1) “AGENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS ENTITY HIRED OR RETAINED BY AN
18 APPLICANT FOR ANY PURPOSE RELATING TO THE LAND THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF AN
19 APPLICATION IF THE INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS ENTITY IS OR INCLUDES AN ATTORNEY,
20 AN ENGINEER, A LAND USE CONSULTANT, A TRAFFIC CONSULTANT, A TRAFFIC ENGINEER,
21 OR A REGISTERED LOBBYIST.

22
23 (2) “APPLICATION” MEANS A WRITTEN APPLICATION FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF
24 PLANNING AND ZONING PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 3 OR TITLE 4 OF
25 ARTICLE 17 OF THIS CODE.

26
27 (5) “CANDIDATE” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FILES A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY
28 FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL OR TO THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE,
29 INCLUDING AN INCUMBENT MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND AN INCUMBENT
30 COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

31
32 (8) “CONTRIBUTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE ELECTION ARTICLE
33 OF THE STATE CODE IN AN AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS A CUMULATIVE MONETARY VALUE
34 OF \$250 OVER THE COURSE OF THE CANDIDATE’S CANDIDACY AND EACH FOUR-YEAR
35 TERM.

36
37 (9) “COUNTY COUNCIL” MEANS THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

38
39 (10) “COUNTY EXECUTIVE” MEANS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF ANNE ARUNDEL
40 COUNTY.

41
42 (28) “PROPERTY OWNER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN
43 REAL PROPERTY AND INCLUDES THE PARENTS, SIBLINGS, SPOUSE, CHILDREN, AND
44 AGENTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AS WELL AS ANY ENTITY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL HAS A
45 FINANCIAL INTEREST.

46
47 (33) “SLATE” MEANS A POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF TWO OR MORE CANDIDATES WHO
48 JOIN TOGETHER TO CONDUCT AND PAY FOR JOINT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES.

49
50 (35) “ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT” MEANS A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT
51 OF THE ZONING CODE THAT ALLOWS ADDITIONAL OR EXPANDED USES IN A ZONING
52 DISTRICT, REVISES THE CONDITIONAL USE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUIREMENTS FOR A
53 ZONING USE, OR IN ANY WAY ACTS TO ALLOW A USE IN A ZONING DISTRICT THAT WAS
54 NOT PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED.

55
56 **TITLE 8. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

1 **7-8-101. PURPOSE.** THE PURPOSE OF THIS TITLE IS TO PROHIBIT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO,
2 OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF, A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE,
3 OR A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO EITHER OFFICE, BY A PROPERTY OWNER INVOLVED
4 WITH A LEGISLATIVE ACTION RELEVANT TO A ZONING CHANGE OR AMENDMENT, OR TO
5 A LAND USE APPLICATION BEFORE THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING OR THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS. THIS TITLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED
7 LIBERALLY TO EFFECTUATE THAT PURPOSE.

8
9 **7-8-102. SCOPE.** THIS TITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A BUILDING OR GRADING PERMIT FOR A
10 SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED DWELLING ON A SINGLE LOT THAT IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO
11 OTHER LOTS OWNED BY THE SAME APPLICANT.

12
13 **7-8-103. COMPREHENSIVE ZONING.**

14
15 (A) **COMPREHENSIVE ZONING.** A COUNCIL MEMBER, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR A
16 CANDIDATE FOR EITHER OFFICE, OR A SLATE THAT INCLUDES A COUNCIL MEMBER OR THE
17 COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MAY NOT ACCEPT A CONTRIBUTION FROM ANY PROPERTY OWNER
18 WHO HAS FILED AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING CHANGE TO BE ENACTED BY A
19 COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE.

20
21 (B) **COMPREHENSIVE ZONING AMENDMENTS.** A COUNCIL MEMBER, THE COUNTY
22 EXECUTIVE, OR A CANDIDATE FOR EITHER OFFICE, OR A SLATE THAT INCLUDES A
23 COUNCIL MEMBER OR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MAY NOT ACCEPT A CONTRIBUTION
24 FROM ANY PROPERTY OWNER OWNING PROPERTY THAT WOULD BE GRANTED INCREASED
25 RESIDENTIAL DENSITY OR WOULD BE CHANGED FROM A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO A
26 COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, OR MIXED USE DISTRICT BY AN AMENDMENT TO A
27 COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE.

28
29 (C) **RECUSAL OR RETURN REQUIRED.** A COUNCIL MEMBER WHO ACCEPTS OR, FOR
30 THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION OR AMENDMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS
31 SECTION, ACCEPTED, A CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION, SHALL RECUSE
32 THEMSELVES FROM ANY VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE AMENDMENT AND THE
33 COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE, OR RETURN THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DONOR
34 PRIOR TO ANY SUCH VOTE.

35
36 (D) **RETURN REQUIRED.** A COUNTY EXECUTIVE WHO ACCEPTS OR, FOR THE TWO
37 YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION OR AMENDMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION,
38 ACCEPTED, A CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RETURN THE
39 CONTRIBUTION TO THE DONOR PRIOR TO ANY VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON A
40 COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE.

41
42 **7-8-104. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS.**

43
44 (A) **ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS.** A COUNCIL MEMBER, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR
45 A CANDIDATE FOR EITHER OFFICE, OR A SLATE THAT INCLUDES A COUNCIL MEMBER OR
46 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MAY NOT ACCEPT A CONTRIBUTION FROM ANY PROPERTY
47 OWNER OWNING PROPERTY THAT WOULD BE PERMITTED ANY ADDITIONAL USES OR
48 DENSITY BY A ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

49
50 (B) **RETURN OR RECUSAL REQUIRED.** A COUNCIL MEMBER WHO ACCEPTS, OR, FOR
51 THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE AMENDMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, ACCEPTED, A
52 CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM
53 ANY VOTE ON THE ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, OR RETURN THE
54 CONTRIBUTION TO THE DONOR PRIOR TO ANY VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE
55 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

56
57 (C) **RETURN REQUIRED.** A COUNTY EXECUTIVE WHO ACCEPTS OR, FOR THE TWO
58 YEARS PRIOR TO THE AMENDMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, ACCEPTED, A

1 CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RETURN THE CONTRIBUTION TO
2 THE DONOR PRIOR TO ANY VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON A ZONING TEXT
3 AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

4
5 **7-8-105. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS.**

6
7 (A) **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS.** THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR A CANDIDATE, OR
8 A SLATE THAT INCLUDES THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MAY NOT ACCEPT A CONTRIBUTION
9 FROM ANY PROPERTY OWNER DURING THE PENDENCY OF A SUBDIVISION APPLICATION
10 OR SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPLICATION FILED WITH THE COUNTY FOR THE PROPERTY
11 OWNER'S PROPERTY.

12
13 (B) **RETURN REQUIRED.** A COUNTY EXECUTIVE WHO ACCEPTS OR, FOR THE TWO
14 YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, ACCEPTED, A
15 CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RETURN THE CONTRIBUTION TO
16 THE DONOR PRIOR TO COUNTY REVIEW OF THE SUBDIVISION APPLICATION OR SITE
17 DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPLICATION.

18
19 **7-8-106. VIOLATIONS.**

20
21 (A) **DONEE.** A FAILURE TO RECUSE FROM A VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OR RETURN
22 A CONTRIBUTION PRIOR TO A VOTE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL, AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS
23 TITLE, SHALL BE CONSIDERED A CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND SHALL BE ENFORCED
24 PURSUANT TO TITLE 9.

25
26 (B) **DONOR.** A PERSON WHO MAKES A CONTRIBUTION IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE IS
27 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING
28 \$1,000, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING ONE YEAR, OR BOTH. IF A BUSINESS ENTITY
29 MAKES A DONATION IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE, EACH OFFICER, PARTNER OR MEMBER
30 WHO KNOWINGLY AUTHORIZED OR PARTICIPATED IN THE VIOLATION IS GUILTY OF A
31 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000,
32 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING ONE YEAR, OR BOTH.

33
34 (C) **INJUNCTION.** THE ETHICS COMMISSION MAY FILE A PETITION FOR INJUNCTION IN
35 THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY TO ENFORCE THIS TITLE, INCLUDING A
36 REQUEST TO VOID ANY OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OR COUNTY
37 EXECUTIVE THAT IS IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE.

38
39 **ARTICLE 17. SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT**

40
41 **TITLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

42
43 **17-2-112. MANDATORY DISCLOSURES.**

44
45 (A) **REQUIRED.** AT THE TIME OF FILING AN APPLICATION FOR SKETCH PLAN, FINAL
46 PLAN, PRELIMINARY PLAN, OR SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE
47 THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING WITH A DISCLOSURE OF ANY CAMPAIGN
48 CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE APPLICANT, THE PARENTS, SIBLINGS, SPOUSE, CHILDREN,
49 OR AGENTS OF THE APPLICANT, OR ANY ENTITY IN WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS A
50 FINANCIAL INTEREST, TO ANY MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OR THE COUNTY
51 EXECUTIVE DURING THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF FILING.

52
53 (B) **SUBSEQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS.** AN APPLICANT SHALL DISCLOSE ANY
54 SUBSEQUENT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION OF ANY AMOUNT MADE BY THE APPLICANT, THE
55 PARENTS, SIBLINGS, SPOUSE, CHILDREN, OR AGENTS OF THE APPLICANT, OR ANY ENTITY
56 IN WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS A FINANCIAL INTEREST, TO ANY MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY
57 COUNCIL OR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF

1 SUCH CONTRIBUTION. DISCLOSURE OF SUBSEQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE FILED
2 WITH THE ETHICS COMMISSION.

3
4 (C) **FORM.** THE DISCLOSURES REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE ON A FORM
5 SUPPLIED BY THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING, BE BASED ON THE PERSONAL
6 KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT, BE MADE UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY, AND
7 INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE DONOR AND THE DATE, AMOUNT AND RECIPIENT OF THE
8 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.

9
10 (D) **ETHICS COMMISSION.** THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING SHALL PROVIDE
11 THE ETHICS COMMISSION WITH A COPY OF EACH DISCLOSURE FILED PURSUANT TO THIS
12 SECTION.

13
14 SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall apply to any
15 contribution made on or after the effective date of this Ordinance.

16
17 SECTION 4. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days
18 from the date it becomes law.