

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. --

Resolution No. 14-26

Introduced by Ms. Hummer

By the County Council, June 9, 2026

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED
Charter Amendment – County Attorney

RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to establish the County Attorney position as a joint appointment between the County Executive and the County Council, provide the appointment and removal of the joint appointment, and clarify the role of the County Attorney as the general counsel to both branches of government

Be it resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That the following amendment to the Anne Arundel County Charter is proposed for submission to the qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2026:

Article V. Executive Branch

Sec. 525. The County Attorney.

The Office of Law shall be administered by the County Attorney, who shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by resolution of the County Council. The County Attorney shall be a resident of the County and a member in good standing of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Maryland and of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, and shall have been actively engaged in the general practice of their profession in the State of Maryland for at least five years prior to appointment. The County Attorney shall serve on a full-time basis and shall not engage in the private practice of law while County Attorney. The County Attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and THE COUNTY COUNCIL. THE COUNTY ATTORNEY may be removed by the County Executive[[, unless the County Council,]] WITH THE CONSENT BY RESOLUTION OF A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OR by resolution on the affirmative vote of not less than five COUNCILMEMBERS [[members, votes to prevent removal of a County Attorney appointed by the County Executive]].

Sec. 526. Powers and duties of the County Attorney.

(a) The County Attorney shall be the legal advisor of the County, BE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, and [[of its]] THE several offices,

1 departments, boards, commissions and other agencies IN THE LEGISLATIVE AND
2 EXECUTIVE BRANCHES. Except as provided in Sections 314 and 528 of this Charter, no
3 office, department, board, commission, agency or branch of the County government which
4 receives County funds shall have any authority or power to employ or retain any legal
5 counsel other than the County Attorney. The County Attorney shall also [[be the legal
6 advisor and]], if requested, BE THE legislative draftsman for the County Council. The
7 County Attorney shall supervise the election of the nominees of the classified employees
8 as provided in Section 520 of this Charter. The County Attorney shall issue upon request,
9 give advice and opinions upon any legal questions affecting the interests of the County
10 when the same are submitted: (1) by written request of a County Council member, (2) by
11 written request of the County Executive, or (3) with the approval of the County Executive,
12 by written request of the head of any office or department in the executive branch or any
13 board, commission or agency. All deeds, bonds, contracts, releases, agreements,
14 advertisements, bids, LEGISLATION and other legal papers, documents and instructions
15 involving the interests of the County to be executed and approved by any officer of the
16 County shall be submitted to the County Attorney and shall be approved by the County
17 Attorney in writing as to their form and legal sufficiency in compliance with the laws and
18 conditions under which executed. The County Attorney shall have the right of access at all
19 times to the official records of any office, department, board, commission or agency of the
20 County. [[Before the County Executive signs any ordinance passed by the County Council,
21 the County Attorney shall review the ordinance and advise the County Executive as to its
22 legality.]] The County Attorney shall have such additional legal duties as may from time
23 to time be provided by ordinance not inconsistent herewith.

24
25 (b) Subject to any limitation or exception that the County Council specifies by
26 ordinance, the County Attorney shall defend any officer or employee of the County in any
27 civil action brought against the officer or employee by reason of any act done or omitted
28 to be done in the scope of the officer's or employee's employment. In any case defended
29 by the County Attorney under this section, the County shall pay all court related expenses
30 charged to the officer or employee.

31
32 *And be it further resolved,* That the following question is adopted for submittal to the
33 qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2026 for their adoption
34 or rejection:

35
36 “To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to establish the County Attorney position
37 as a joint appointment between the County Executive and the County Council, provide the
38 appointment and removal of the joint appointment, and clarify the role of the County
39 Attorney as the general counsel to both branches of government.”

40
41 *And be it further resolved,* That this question shall be designated as Question “__” on
42 the ballot at the General Election in November 2026.

43
44 *And be it further resolved,* That if the majority of qualified votes cast in the election
45 are for the Charter Amendment, this amendment shall stand adopted from and after the 30th
46 day following the election.