

PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 65-26

Introduced by Mr. Volke

By the County Council, July 20, 2026

Introduced and first read on July 20, 2026
Public Hearing set for September 21, 2026
Bill Expires on October 23, 2026

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Ethics – Campaign Contribution Disclosure and
2 Comprehensive Zoning Integrity Act

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4 FOR the purpose of adding a definition for “applicant”, “covered person”, and “zoning text
5 amendment”; requiring certain campaign contribution disclosures from applicants for
6 certain land use determinations, zoning text amendment legislation, and land use
7 legislative actions; prohibiting certain campaign contributions during certain zoning
8 processes; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally related to public ethics.
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10 BY renumbering: § 7-1-101(1) through (4), and (5) through (26), respectively, to be 7-1-
11 101(2) through (5), and (7) through (28), respectively; and §§ 7-8-101 through 7-8-103,
12 and the title “Title 8. Enforcement”, respectively, to be §§ 7-9-101 through 7-9-103,
13 respectively, and the title “Title 9. Enforcement”
14 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)
15

16 BY adding: § 7-1-101(1), (6), and (29); and §§ 7-8-101 through 7-8-107, under the new
17 title “Title 8. “Campaign Contribution”
18 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)
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20 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
21 §7-1-101(1) through (4), and (5) through (26), respectively, to be 7-1-101(2) through (5),
22 and (7) through (28), respectively; and §§ 7-8-101 through 7-8-103, and the title “Title 8.
23 Enforcement”, respectively, to be §§ 7-9-101 through 7-9-103, and the title “Title 9.
24 Enforcement”, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended).

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
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.

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

ARTICLE 7. PUBLIC ETHICS

TITLE 1. IN GENERAL

7-1-101. Definitions.

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

(1) “APPLICANT” MEANS ANY PERSON OR ENTITY:

(I) SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR:

1. COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT;
2. MAJOR SUBDIVISION;
3. PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT;
4. REZONING;
5. SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN; OR
6. SPECIAL EXCEPTION; OR

(II) REQUESTING AND OBTAINING SPONSORSHIP FOR:

1. ANY LEGISLATIVE LAND USE ACTION DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL; OR
2. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT.

(6) “COVERED PERSON” MEANS:

(I) AN APPLICANT;

(II) ANY PROPERTY OWNER ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPLICATION;

(III) ANY PRINCIPAL, OFFICER, DIRECTOR, MEMBER, PARTNER, OR MANAGING AGENT OF AN APPLICANT ENTITY;

(IV) ANY ENTITY HOLDING A CONTROLLING OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN AN APPLICANT; AND

(V) ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED OR CONTROLLED BY A COVERED PERSON.

(29) "ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT" MEANS A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE ZONING CODE THAT ALLOWS ADDITIONAL OR EXPANDED USES IN A ZONING DISTRICT, REVISES THE CONDITIONAL OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUIREMENTS FOR A USE IN A ZONING DISTRICT, OR IN ANY WAY ACTS TO ALLOW A USE IN A ZONING DISTRICT THAT WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY ALLOWED OR TO OTHERWISE MODIFY OR EXPAND A USE OR THE CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS FOR A USE.

TITLE 8. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

7-8-101. PURPOSE.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS TITLE IS TO REGULATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, A CANDIDATE FOR EITHER OFFICE, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE A CANDIDATE FOR EITHER OFFICE BY AN APPLICANT.

7-8-102. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(A) **AFFIDAVIT.** AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION, EACH APPLICANT SHALL FILE A SWORN AFFIDAVIT DISCLOSING ALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ANY COVERED PERSON DURING THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS TO:

- (1) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;
- (2) ANY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER;
- (3) CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE;
- (4) CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COUNCIL; AND
- (5) ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE SUCH CANDIDATES.

(B) **DISCLOSURE.** DISCLOSURE SHALL INCLUDE:

- (1) THE CONTRIBUTOR'S NAME;
- (2) THE ELECTED OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE;
- (3) DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION;
- (4) AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION; AND
- (5) RELATIONSHIP OF THE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE APPLICATION.

(C) **FILING.** ALL DISCLOSURES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE FILED WITH THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION AND SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.

7-8-103. CONTINUING DISCLOSURE DURING PENDENCY.

(A) **REPORTING.** ANY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION MADE BY A COVERED PERSON WHILE AN APPLICATION IS PENDING SHALL BE REPORTED WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS.

(B) **PENALTY.** FAILURE TO TIMELY DISCLOSE SHALL RESULT IN ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND SUSPENSION OF APPLICATION PROCESSING UNTIL COMPLIANCE IS ACHIEVED.

7-8-104. COMPREHENSIVE REZONING CONTRIBUTION MORATORIUM.

(A) **MORATORIUM.** UPON INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION INITIATING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING, COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT, OR SIMILAR COUNTYWIDE ZONING PROCESS, AND CONTINUING UNTIL FINAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON SUCH PROCESS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, NO COVERED PERSON SHALL MAKE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION TO:

(1) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;

(2) ANY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER;

(3) ANY CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE;

(4) ANY CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY COUNCIL; OR

(5) ANY EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE STATE CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING A CANDIDACY FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

(B) **PROHIBITED PERSONS OR ENTITIES.** THIS PROHIBITION APPLIES ONLY TO PERSONS OR ENTITIES OWNING PROPERTY, SEEKING CHANGES IN ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS, OR SUBMITTING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING PROCESS.

(C) **REFUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS.** CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE REFUNDED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF DISCOVERY AND NOTICE OF THE VIOLATION BEING PROVIDED TO THE AFFECTED CANDIDATE, ELECTED OFFICIAL, OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

(D) **EXCLUSION.** NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES OR ACTIVITIES OTHERWISE PROTECTED BY LAW.

7-8-105. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT; LAND USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

(A) **DISCLOSURE.** A PERSON OR ENTITY, OR ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED OR CONTROLLED BY THAT PERSON OR ENTITY, THAT REQUESTS ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT LEGISLATION OR LAND USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND OBTAINS COUNCIL MEMBER SPONSORSHIP SHALL DISCLOSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-8-102, ALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY ANY PERSONS OR ENTITIES, OR ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED OR CONTROLLED BY THAT PERSON OR ENTITY.

(B) **PROHIBITION.** A PERSON OR ENTITY, OR ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED OR CONTROLLED BY THAT PERSON OR ENTITY, MAY NOT MAKE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION TO ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WHILE OWNING PROPERTY THAT WOULD BENEFIT IN ANY WAY FROM PENDING ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT LEGISLATION OR LAND USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

7-8-106. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

EACH APPLICATION SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE A CERTIFICATION SIGNED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY AFFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH ALL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRIBUTION MORATORIUM PROVISIONS.

7-8-107. ENFORCEMENT.

(A) **ADMINISTRATION.** THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(B) VIOLATIONS.** VIOLATIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY RESULT IN:

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3 (1) CIVIL PENALTIES NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 PER VIOLATION;

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5 (2) SUSPENSION OF APPLICATION REVIEW; AND

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7 (3) PUBLIC NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.

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9 **(C) NONDISCLOSURE.** NO LAND USE APPROVAL SHALL BE INVALIDATED SOLELY DUE
10 TO A DISCLOSURE VIOLATION UNLESS THE VIOLATION IS FOUND TO BE KNOWING AND
11 MATERIAL.

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13 SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect January
14 1, 2027.