

Local Government Updates



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Wicomico County Legislative Issues

Septic Task Force:

I wanted to get some more information regarding the Master Plan – the plan is generally to expand on existing sewer systems first, bringing connections into the expanded sewer. “low hanging fruit” first. But because some systems are in need of upgrades, and expansion cannot happen until these upgrades happen, projects like Parsonsburg will take nearly eight years to begin.

I had also expressed my concern with holding tanks, the devaluing of property due to them, and that impact on the tax base. Mr. Corry explained to me that under a County’s Master plan, there exists different zoning. MDE cannot issue a holding tank in many of these water/sewer zones and that permission must be granted from the steward of the County’s Master plan to issue a holding tank in these zones. I’ve requested more information on this, but it seems to be an added protection for homeowners.

They had also stressed the importance of an updated Master Plan as funding for upgrades and infrastructure will not be given without an on-time and updated plan.

Also, onsite sewage systems are not recorded by the health department, and there is no way to know the percentages of system types in Wicomico without looking at permits individually.





Wicomico County Legislative Issues

Creation of a Sanitary Commission in Wicomico County

Adam Corry expressed intent to present legislation for the creation of a Sanitary Commission to the Wicomico County Council on July 15th. During our meeting three weeks ago, he had asked if we would offer a letter of support. I had explained that until we see a draft of the legislation, I cannot commit to doing so. I have requested the information he is willing to share with us and have compiled the following information. **Please, if you have questions on this matter, email me and I will attempt to answer them or find relevant information before our meeting.**

The General Assembly passed legislation two years ago to establish a Sanitation Districts in Wicomico.

The Commission will be comprised of three, Council appointed members that serve in six-year staggered terms. There will be a chair of the Commission and they as a body will give recommendations to the Council, Department of Public Works, and oversee the implementation of the Water/Sewer Master Plan.

Sanitation Districts will be created, and Commission procedures will be established after adoption.





Wicomico County Legislative Issues

Beginning of Sewer Expansion in Wicomico County

Sewer expansion in Wicomico County will begin with the “low hanging fruit”: the expansion of existing municipal sewer systems. On July 1st, the Council began that process with **Resolution No. 95-2025 – Approving a Multiyear Contract Agreement with KCI Technologies Inc.**

Bids were accepted until May 14th, 2025 for the **Wicomico County Septic Elimination and Salisbury Sewer Extension Project**. The Scope of work for this project includes Design Services, Permitting Services, Bidding Services, Construction Administration Services, and Construction Inspection Services.

The expected cost of this project is approximately \$8.7 million. Design work is forward funded and MDE funding information is released this month. Should the County not receive MDE funding, then they’ll reapply next year.





Wicomico County Legislative Issues

Wicomico Planning and Zoning

The County Council passed the adoption of a County P&Z Commission, which will take effect Aug, 19th. Details are as follows:

- Start date of Sept 1, 2025.
- Meets once per month unless there is no pending business. Special sessions can be called by the Chair.
- Members can enter land to make examinations.
- Members shall be confirmed by the County Council.
- Members serve five-year terms.
- The first board will consist of three members which serve three years and four members which serve five years (to stagger members and not have seven vacancies at once).
- Members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Members must be 21 years of age, live in the county, and complete the necessary education within 6 months of appointment.

Submit a letter of intent and a resume to ltaylor@wicomicocounty.org to apply for the County P&Z board.

Salisbury had their first introduction of their own P&Z board. This began in work session and is still several weeks from adoption, but it models the Wicomico legislation closely.





Somerset County Legislative Issues

Taxes

We've sent our deposit for Taxes on Sept. 24, keeping things the same as we have previously.

We are looking for event sponsors, please direct those interested in attending, volunteering, or sponsoring the event to this link: <https://members.coastalrealtors.org/event-calendar/Details/2025-j-millard-taxes-crab-and-clam-bake-1398323?sourceTypeId=Hub>

A special session will be held on July 8th to accept State grants for Critical Areas, in the hopes of improving flood prevention.



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Worcester County Legislative Issues

Offshore Wind

The motion to dismiss our suit against the US Department of the Interior was denied, and all counts of the suit against BOEM and US Wind will proceed.

THE OCMD Mayor and Council will be presented a Stop Offshore Wind campaign on 7/7.





Worcester County Legislative Issues

Nonconforming Properties

There are about 250 dwelling units that are nonconforming in the R-1 and MH zones in Ocean City. Most of these are in Caine Woods and Little Salisbury. The Council has shown the intent to address these properties at a later date, after the referendum vote ends on July 22nd. I'll be looking for any public notices as amendments to the current set of rental restriction ordinances will have to come before the Council and the public.



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Worcester County Legislative Issues

Mailers to OCMD Voters

We have completed our supplemental mailer to OCMD qualified voters. Between our first and second rounds of mail, about 6,200 OCMD full time residents have mail addressed to them, which is nearly all qualified voters in the town.

I'm working through a second list from Worcester County where it is likely that their address is invalid, so I'll be sending what I can after correcting those addresses.

Thank you to all who came out to help!



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