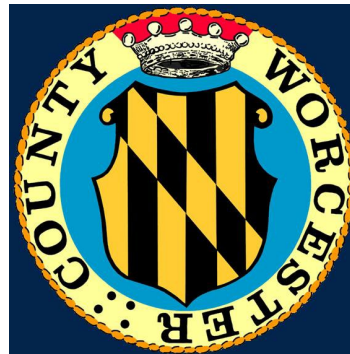


Local Government Updates



ADVOCACY

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Wicomico County Legislative Issues

Wicomico County Councilmembers will see the legislation that will separate Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission into two separate entities. Legislative Bill 2025-07 establishes a seven-member Planning and Zoning Commission which will meet monthly. Four members will serve a term of five years and three will serve a term of three years. Members will be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

To qualify, applicants must be County residents, be 21 years of age or older, and must complete the appropriate training within six months of appointment.

The effective date of this legislation is September 1st, 2025.

Salisbury Comprehensive Plan Update:

- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 — Housing & Historic and Cultural Resources
- Thursday, June 12, 2025 — Water Resources & Environmental Resources and Sustainability





Somerset County Legislative Issues

A public hearing in Princess Anne happened Thursday evening for a proposed solar farm. The contractors are seeking approval for this 11-acre renewable energy project.





Worcester County Legislative Issues

Tuesday May 20th, the results of the referendum will be announced by the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The Board met on May 9th and if 991 signatures are confirmed by this Board, then Ordinance 2025-04 will be put on the ballot, either in a special election or in the next municipal election, which is in November of 2026.





Worcester County Ocean City Update

Chapter 1. – Charter
Title IV. - Mayor and Council
C-411. – Referendum. (178C)

On April 21st, petitioners submitted 1,332 signatures to the Ocean City Clerk, of which 1,327 were accepted. Now the Ocean City Board of Election Supervisors will begin confirming these accepted signatures. If at least 991 of those 1,327 signatures are confirmed by the Board of Election Supervisors, then a vote must be held to allow Ocean City voters to decide on whether or not they would like Ordinance 2025 – 04 to be law.

The Council has two choices:

1. Hold a special election to allow Ocean City voters to decide on Ordinance 2025 – 04, or
2. Wait until the next municipal election, in November of 2027, to allow voters to decide.

However, Ordinance 2025 – 04 remains in effect for sixty (60) days following the receipt of the petition. Because the petition was received on April 21st, Ordinance 2025 – 04 will remain in effect until June 21, 2025.

Ordinance 2025 – 04 will be suspended after June 21st, 2025 until an election is held and voters decide to keep the R-1 and MH length of stay law in effect or to overturn the Council's decision.

The Board of Election Supervisors have not validated the signatures and the Council has not decided to hold a special election or to wait until the next municipal election.

A link to the exact text regarding referendum in Ocean City has been provided above.





Maryland State Update

Maryland had its bond rating downgraded from AAA to Aa1 from rating agency Moody's. Moody's is considered the "gold standard" of credit raters, but one of the other two raters, Fitch, maintains its AAA rating for the state. The State will issue more bonds on June 11th. The possibility of a special session seems more and more feasible with the continued cuts to federal spending and this new credit rating.

Maryland has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with U.S. Wind that will have the offshore wind company compensate watermen with \$20 million in investment. Lower Shore lawmakers continue to advocate for our watermen and environment with support from Representative Harris. Worcester County is still exploring the use of eminent domain on the two West Ocean City fish houses which are under contract to U.S. Wind.

[See Mayor Meehan's statement on this MOU here.](#)





Federal Update

Single family home construction dropped 2.1% in April and single-family home building permit applications dropped 5.1% in April nationwide (Reuters). Economists attribute this decrease to tariff uncertainty and elevated mortgage rates.

The President's budget request for the Department of Housing and Urban Development includes a 40% reduction in rental assistance, but the allocation of rental assistance would become more of a State's responsibility. The budget bill has failed to pass committee.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will investigate cuts to fair housing enforcement at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The investigation follows HUD's attempt to claw back \$30 million in grants awarded to local fair housing centers.



RPAC Report



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Major Investor Count: 23

Total Investments Received: \$29,257

Remaining Pledges: \$7,170

Minimum Anticipated Investments: \$36,427

Membership Participation: 340 members have invested \$29 or more (36%)