

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
Legislative Session 2023, Legislative Day No. 18

Resolution No. 32-23

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Councilmembers Patoka, Ertel, Marks, Young, Jones & Kach

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By the County Council, October 2, 2023

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A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council establishing the Baltimore County Council Structure Review Workgroup.

WHEREAS, Baltimore County has more than 850,000 residents – the third largest population in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County’s population has grown increasingly diverse, with people of color composing 47 percent of the County’s population in the 2020 Census Report; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are underrepresented in elected office when compared solely with the demographic data in the County; and

WHEREAS, every four years, Baltimore County voters have been presented with individuals who have filed and campaigned for election to the County Council, which has included minority and non-minority candidates; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Council is comprised of seven (7) members each representing individual Council Districts, with other larger population jurisdictions such as Prince George’s County being comprised of eleven (11) members including two (2) at-large members, and Montgomery County being comprised of eleven (11) members including four (4) at-large members; and

WHEREAS, community activists are advocating the need for more diverse representation and a lower ratio of constituents per Councilmember, including potential Council expansion; and

WHEREAS, the County Council seeks to examine this issue and develop a consensus recommendation on whether any changes to the structure of the Council are appropriate and serve the goal of improving representation for County residents; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland that the Baltimore County Council Structure Review Workgroup (hereinafter, the “Workgroup”) is hereby established to conduct research and make recommendations as an advisory body to the County Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council shall select the Chair of the Workgroup, which, in addition, shall consist of:

- ~~Three appointees~~ One appointee from the County Executive;
- One appointee from each member of the County Council;
- One representative appointed by the County Council from the Baltimore County Planning Board;
- One representative appointed by the County Council from an area college or university with expertise in political science or government;
- One representative appointed by the County Council with expertise in demographics; and
- Two ex-officio members, with one member designated by the County Executive and one member designated by the County Council to staff the Workgroup, both of whom shall not have voting rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Baltimore County Council Structure Review Workgroup shall meet on a monthly basis; research the composition of peer legislative bodies in

the State of Maryland and nationwide, review demographic data and trends for Baltimore County and the State of Maryland, obtain data on the potential taxpayer costs associated with a potential increase in the number of Councilmembers, and other relevant issues the Workgroup deems appropriate; convene at least one public hearing and consider input from the public; and submit a written Report with analysis and recommendations to the Council by March 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.



# LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION \_\_\_\_\_

ENACTED \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Patoka
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Kach
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Jones
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Marks
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Crandell

## ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
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