

**2024 DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commission Members

- William Layton, Chair
- Allen Nelson, Vice Chair
- Glenn Bramble
- Susan Dukes
- Linda Henry
- Robert Murphy
- George “Phillip” Reed

County Manager Responsibilities

Change Requested:

Add language that would solidify the difference between the responsibilities of the County Council and the County Manager. We would like to emphasize:

- County Manager is the only one allowed to direct employees
- When position is vacant, search must start immediately
- If position is not filled timely, alternative search measures must be employed.
- County Manager must be available full time.
- County Manager cannot take direction from individual Council Members without majority Council approval
- Only the County Manager can hire and fire county employees

County Manager Residency

Change Requested:

- Change the requirements of the County Manager to remove the residency requirement

Administrative Review

Change Requested:

- Change the Administrative Review to require it be done in the first fiscal year of each new Council

Director of Finance Residency

Change Requested:

- Change the requirements of the County Director of Finance to remove the residency requirement

Budget Due Date

Change Requested:

- Change the due date for the proposed County budget from May 1st to no later than May 15th of each year.

Budget Adoption

Change Requested:

- Change the adoption date for the County budget from June 1st to no later than June 15th.

Transparency

Change Requested:

Add language to Section 606 to ensure transparency and to ensure that the most effective means are used to disseminate meeting information

Term Limits

Change Requested:

Add language to the County Charter to limit a County Council member to 3 four year terms (for a total of 12 years) beginning with the 2026 Council.