

TOWN OF ROCK HALL, MARYLAND

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION No. 2025-01

A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL, MARYLAND, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and §§ 4-302(1) and 4-304 of the Local Government Article of the Maryland Annotated Code to amend the Municipal Charter of the Town of Rock Hall (as published in Chapter 125, Volume 7, Compilation of Municipal Charters) for the purposes of providing for the cancelation of uncontested Town elections; providing that the title of this Charter Amendment Resolution shall be deemed a fair summary; and generally relating to elections in the Town of Rock Hall.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI-E, § 3 of the Constitution of Maryland, the Council of the Town of Rock Hall (the "Council"), as the legislative body of the Town of Rock Hall (the "Town"), is authorized and empowered to amend the Municipal Charter of the Town of Rock Hall (the "Charter"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI-E, § 4 of the Constitution of Maryland, an amendment to the Charter shall be proposed either by a resolution of the Council or by a petition of the registered voters of the Town and filed with the Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't §§ 4-302(1) and 4-304, the Council may initiate a proposed amendment or amendments to the Charter by a resolution which, except as otherwise specified in the subtitle, is ordained or adopted as in the usual course of considering resolutions in the Town government, by a majority of the Council, and the same shall be subject to the right of referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Council is desirous of amending the Charter for the purpose of providing for the cancelation of uncontested Town elections; and

WHEREAS, the Council, to provide for the reasonable and appropriate representation of the citizens of the Town and to provide for the better management and governance of the Town and its affairs, deems it necessary and appropriate for the good government and citizens of the Town to amend certain provisions of the Charter as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that, pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and §§ 4-302(1) and 4-304 of the Local Government Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, the Municipal Charter of the Town of Rock Hall (as published in Chapter 125, Volume 7, Compilation of Municipal Charters) be, and the same is hereby, amended:

SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that Section 609 of the Charter be and it is hereby amended as follows:

Section 609 – Elections of the Mayor and Councilpersons

- A. On the first Saturday of March 2027, and every alternate two years thereafter, the qualified voters of the town shall elect one person as Mayor and two persons as Councilmembers for terms of four years.
- B. On the first Saturday of March 2025, and every alternate two years thereafter, the qualified voters of the town shall elect two Councilmembers for terms of four years.
- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if only one person files a proper certificate of nomination for Mayor, then the Clerk-Treasurer shall certify that the mayoral election is uncontested and record the results in the minutes of the Council, and that person shall assume the office of Mayor upon taking the oath of office in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. If only two people file proper certificates of nomination for Councilmember, then the Clerk-Treasurer shall certify that the Councilmember election is uncontested and record the results in the minutes of the Council, and those persons shall assume the office of Councilperson upon taking the oath of office in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. If all vacancies in a Town election are uncontested, then the election shall be canceled, and the Clerk-Treasurer shall certify the same and record the results as aforesaid.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that, in this Resolution, unless a section of the Charter is expressly repealed in its entirety and reenacted, new or added language is underlined and deleted text is enclosed in double parentheses. Language added after the date of introduction is in italicized, boldface type, and text deleted after the date of introduction is crossed out twice.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution, it being the intent of the Council that this Resolution shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion hereof.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that to the extent that any section of the Charter of the Town is in conflict with the provisions of Section 1 of this Resolution, such section or sections be and hereby are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that the date of adoption of this Resolution is March 13, 2025, and the Charter amendment enacted by this Resolution shall become effective upon the fiftieth (50th) day after adoption, or on May 2, 2025, unless a proper petition for a referendum hereon shall be filed on or before the fortieth (40th) day after adoption, or on April 22, 2025, as permitted by law. A complete and exact copy of this Resolution shall be posted at the Town Office at 21447 Rock Hall Avenue, Rock Hall, Maryland, or another main municipal building or public place, for a period of at least

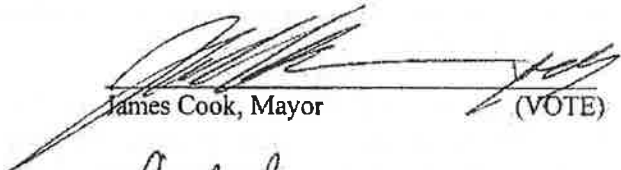
forty (40) days following its adoption, or until April 22, 2025, and the title to this Resolution, being a fair summary of the Charter amendment enacted hereby, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town not less than four (4) times, at weekly intervals within a period of at least forty (40) days, starting immediately after the date of its adoption, or between March 20th, 2025, and April 10th, 2025.

SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that as soon as the Charter amendment enacted by this Resolution shall become effective, either as herein provided or following a referendum, the Clerk-Treasurer shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service, or by e-mail to the Department of Legislative Services of the State of Maryland, the following documents or information concerning the Charter amendment: (1) the complete text of this Resolution; (2) the date of the referendum election, if any, held with respect thereto; (3) the number of votes cast for or against this Resolution by the Council or in a referendum; and (4) the effective date of the Charter amendment.

SECTION 7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL that the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to carry out the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 hereof; and as evidence of compliance herewith, the Clerk-Treasurer shall cause to be affixed to the minutes of the Council for the meeting at which this Resolution is adopted: (1) a certificate to the effect that this Resolution was duly and properly posted as provided in Section 13 herein; (2) an appropriate certificate of publication in the newspaper in which the fair summary of the Charter amendment shall have been published as provided in Section 5 herein; and (3) the return receipt of the mailing as provided in Section 6 herein.

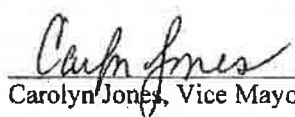
SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE

This Charter Amendment Resolution was introduced at a public meeting of the Council of the Town of Rock Hall, held on the 20th day of February 2025, and having been reviewed and considered for final action, was duly adopted on the 13th day of March 2025.



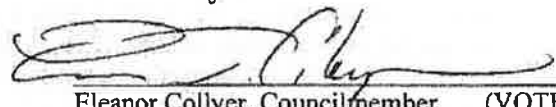
James Cook, Mayor

(VOTE)



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor

(VOTE)



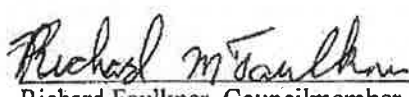
Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember

(VOTE)



Timothy Edwards, Councilmember

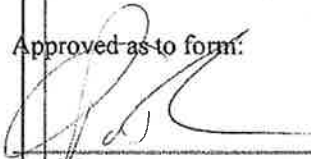
(VOTE)



Richard Faulkner, Councilmember

(VOTE)

Approved as to form:



Patrick W. Thomas, Town Attorney