



**TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
January 16, 2024  
Starting at 6:00 PM**

The Town is monitoring the possibility for inclement weather for this evening. If inclement weather occurs this meeting will be live streamed virtually on the Town's channel [here](#). A notice will be released on the Town's eblast if a change occurs.

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Informational discussion on the following:**

1. Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-24-1, a resolution of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, amending the Charter of the Town of Chesapeake Beach to provide for the clarification of a referendum of an ordinance.

**IV. Council Lightning Round**

**V. Adjournment**

**8200 BAYSIDE ROAD, P.O. BOX 400 CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MARYLAND 20732**

**(410) 257-2230**

**(301) 855-8398**



To: The Honorable Mayor and Town Council

From: Holly Wahl, Town Administrator

Subject: Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-24-1

Date: January 12, 2024

**I. BACKGROUND:**

Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-24-1, a resolution of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, amending section C-311 “Referendum” amends the Town Charter to require twenty percent (20%) of the total Town of Chesapeake Beach voters based upon the Maryland Universal Registration System numbers at the time registration closed for previous election to initiate a referendum process. This amendment brings the Town of Chesapeake Beach back to the prior language in the charter that requires the percentage of registered voters per the Maryland Universal Registration System rather than the percentage of total votes in the last election. However, by specifying “numbers at the time registration closed for previous election” it removes the issue of Maryland Universal Registration System accuracy on any given day.

**II: SUMMARY:**

**Breakdown of Voters by Election Year:** A breakdown of registered voters by election year as provided by Randy Getman, Chair of the Board of Elections for the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

Election Year	2004	2008	2012	2013	2016	2020
# Registry	2,875	3,796	?	3,918	4,302	4,581
Town Only	?	?	?	?	2	1
<b>Total Voters</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>3,796</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,918</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>4,582</b>

**Registered Voter Summary:** A summary of the Registered Voters of the Town for last election day (November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020) as provided by Randy Getman, Chair of the Board of Elections for the Town of Chesapeake Beach:

<b>Registered Voter Summary</b>		
Precint	Status	Total
3-1	Active	727
3-1	In-Active	73
		<b>800</b>
Precint	Status	Total
3-8	Active	3502
3-8	In-Active	272
3-8	Pending	7
		<b>3781</b>
<b>Town Supplemental List</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4582</b>



**Number of Voters by Election Year:** A summary of the Number of voters by election year as provided by Randy Getman, Chair of the Board of Elections for the Town of Chesapeake Beach:

Election Year	2004	2008	2012	2013	2016	2020
# Voters Voting			1,774	712	1,996	1,275

## **II. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Town Council consider amending the Town Charter back to its original language that calculates the total voters needed by referendum to the Maryland Universal Registration System rather than using a percentage of the number of voters in the last election. This change brings the Town into alignment with most other Maryland municipalities' referendum requirements which is 20% of the registered voters.

**CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION CAR-24-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MARYLAND,  
AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH TO  
PROVIDE FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF A REFERENDUM OF AN ORDINANCE.**

WHEREAS, Chesapeake Beach (the "Town") is a municipal corporation in the State of Maryland, organized and operating under a Charter adopted in 1963, in accordance with Article XI E of the Constitution of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Md. Code. Ann., Local Gov't Art., Division II, Title 4, Subtitle 3, the Town Council has the authority to amend the Town's Charter, in accordance with the procedures set forth therein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, that Section C 311(b), Referendum of the Charter of Chesapeake Beach is hereby amended as follows:

If, before the expiration of twenty calendar days following approval of any ordinance by the mayor or passage of any ordinance over the mayor's veto, or seven days after the last required publication, whichever date is later, a petition is filed with the Town clerk containing the signatures of duly qualified and registered Town voters representing not less than **twenty-percent (20%) of the total Town of Chesapeake Beach voters as indicated on the previous election day based upon the Maryland Universal Registration System**, ~~fifty percent (50%) of the total number of voters who voted in the last preceding regular Town election~~ the percentage of petitioners to be rounded up to the nearest whole number, and requesting that the ordinance, or any part thereof, be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the town for their approval or disapproval. The council shall have the ordinance, or that part of such ordinance as to which referendum is requested, submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the town at the next regular town election or, in the council's discretion, at a special election occurring before the next regular election.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon the effective date of the amendments set forth herein, any provisions of the Charter of Chesapeake Beach that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter Amendment Resolution are hereby repealed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't Art., § 4-304, the Mayor of the Town of Chesapeake Beach shall give notice of this proposed amendment by posting an exact copy of the same at the Town Hall, for a period of at least forty (40) days following its adoption. In addition, a fair summary of this proposed amendment shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Chesapeake Beach not less than four (4) times, at weekly intervals within a period of forty (40) days after the adoption of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't Art., § 4-304, the charter amendment proposed by the Town Council for the Town of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland shall become and be considered a part of the municipal Charter, according to the terms

of this charter amendment resolution, in all respects to be effective and observed as such, upon the fiftieth (50th) day after being so ordained or passed, unless on or before the fortieth (40th) day after being so ordained or passed, there shall be presented to the Town Council, or mailed to it by certified mail, a petition for referendum meeting the requirements of Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't Art., § 4-304(d).

AS **CERTIFIED** by their signatures below, the members of the Town Council affirm that this Resolution was introduced at the Town Council meeting held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 and that after a public hearing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, a vote was taken in accordance with Town's regular procedures for the passage of resolutions. The vote of the Council was tallied and \_\_\_\_ votes of approval and \_\_\_\_\_ votes of disapproval were cast. The resulting majority of all members of the Town Council (*approved/disapproved*) the passage of this Resolution this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024. This Resolution shall become effective in accordance with its terms.

**CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MARYLAND**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. Mahoney, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
L. Charles Fink, Council Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie L. Beaudin, Councilwoman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence P. Jaworski, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Morris, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith L. Pardieck, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret P. Hartman, Councilwoman