

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



Message from Councilman Marks

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Charter Amendments Will Protect Green Space, Reform Government

In the general election, voters will be asked to adopt five changes to Baltimore County's charter, which can be thought of as the constitution for our local government. I supported advancing all five measures for approval by the voters, and was a principal sponsor of two of these proposals.

Question A. I sponsored Question A, the Baltimore County Farmland Preservation Act, with the goal of preserving green space and agricultural land. [Question A requires a supermajority of the County Council to approve changes to the Urban-Rural Demarcation Line.](#) I strongly endorse Question A as a way to prevent irresponsible sprawl, protect our northern reservoirs, and protect green space.

Question B. I cosponsored Question B, [which would create a Baltimore County Department of Agriculture by consolidating those agencies that currently work on farm-related issues.](#) There are more than 780 farms in Baltimore County, and they need one agency to champion and support their concerns.

Question C. The Inspector General investigates fraud, waste, and abuse. This charter amendment, which I cosponsored, establishes an Inspector General Appointment Board to review the qualifications of applicants and determine who should best carry out the responsibilities of this office. It also establishes a residency requirement for the Inspector General. I cosponsored this legislation.

Question D. This change increases the size of the Charter Review Commission to reflect the appointment of two additional representatives, since the County Council is expanding by two members. I sponsored this charter change, as well as the original legislation that created the Charter Review Commission.

Question E. This charter change clarifies the responsibilities of the Board of Recreation and Parks. This volunteer panel helps advocate for park programs and improvements throughout Baltimore County.

I hope you will support all five of these charter changes which will preserve our green space and reform Baltimore County government.



David Marks
Baltimore County Council

**Serving the Eastside:
Carney, Perry Hall,
Kingsville, White Marsh,
Chase, Bowleys Quarters,
and Middle River**

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Contact Our Office

Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3384
council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

Follow Us Online

@countycouncilmandavidmarks

@david_s_marks

Council Passes Resolution to Require Rural Traffic Plan

Councilman Baltimore County Councilman David Marks passed a resolution at the September 21st legislative meeting that requires the Department of Public Works and Transportation to develop recommendations for rural road safety.

The resolution directs the Department to hold a public hearing, review and evaluate best practices from other jurisdictions, and recommend strategies to the Baltimore County Council by March 1, 2027. Traffic is increasing in Baltimore County's rural communities, particularly from Harford County. Speeding is also increasing, a problem that is often more difficult to address in rural communities where there are no shoulders where police can park their cars for enforcement.

Council Extends Moratorium on Data Centers

At its September 22 meeting, the Baltimore County Council passed Councilman Marks' legislation extending the moratorium on data centers to next winter. [Learn more about the Planning Board study and the ongoing effort to regulate data centers.](#)

Council Requires Better Notification on Warehouses

At its October 5 meeting, the Baltimore County Council passed Councilman Marks' legislation that requires better notification to communities for large warehouses that are proceeding under a limited exemption process. The legislation also directs the Planning Board to review this process before the next rezoning cycle begins.



Kingsville Community Celebrates New Playground; Future Projects in Bowleys Quarters and Carney

On Saturday, September 12, community leaders and staff from the Department of Recreation and Parks celebrated the completion of the new playground at Kingsville Park.

[The 156 county-owned playgrounds in Baltimore County are currently being replaced.](#) In eastern Baltimore County, playgrounds have been updated so far over the past two years at the Andrea Avenue, Belmont Park, Ridgely Avenue, Loreley, Oakhurst, Honeygo Regional Park, and Eastern Regional Park properties, with plans so far for new equipment at Seneca Harbor, Tapu/Beldale Court, and Woodcroft Park.

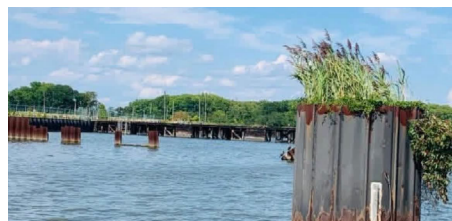
Department of Recreation and Parks will hold the meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Eastern Regional Park (11723 Eastern Avenue).

Councilman Marks worked with then-County Executive Olszewski, Senator Jennings, Delegates Nawrocki and Szeliga, federal partners, and community leaders in Bowleys Quarters and Seneca Park to [protect the land from development.](#)



Perry Hall Community Celebrates Track Resurfacing

On September 25, the Perry Hall community rededicated the Gerald L. Martin Memorial Track following a resurfacing project that restored the usefulness of this area. The track at the Perry Hall High School stadium is named for the longtime track and cross-country coach who helped lead teams to multiple county championships. Councilman Marks was a member of the cross-country teams from 1988 to 1990.



Community Meeting Set for Former C.P. Crane Property

A community meeting will be held in mid-October to begin the process of securing public input about the former C.P. Crane property in Middle River, now protected from development and preserved for a park. The Baltimore County

Citizen Input Meeting Planned for Capital Program

The public input process begins this month for Baltimore County's capital improvement program, which includes funding for roads, sewers, and other infrastructure and neighborhood projects. [Learn more about the October public hearing here.](#)