

Zachary J. Kieffer
County Attorney

Rosalinda Pascual
Deputy County Attorney



Aaron R. Weiss
Assistant County Attorney

Victor Scarpelli
Assistant County Attorney

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 26, 2025

Ken Buckler

Boonsboro, MD 21713
Radio Free Hub City

Re: Maryland Public Information Act (“MPIA”) Request 25-26

Dear Mr. Buckler,

This letter is a response to your MPIA Request 25-26, dated February 10, 2025, in which you requested County records related to the 2024 Washington County Salary Study Report.

Unfortunately, the County is still in the process of completing its 2024 Salary Study Report. This oversight was likely caused by the large turnover of department and division heads that the County has experienced since the last salary study was completed in 2020. Nevertheless, the County is urgently working to rectify this issue to complete the study as quickly as possible. Although the County cannot produce your requested record, please see attached the letters sent by the County to determine the members of the salary study at issue. These letters constitute an important step in establishing membership for the Salary Study Commission.

Additionally, to the extent you have requested e-mails from July 1, 2023, concerning the salary study, our Information and Technology Department has confirmed that approximately 600 matching e-mails have been discovered that meet your search criteria. Please confirm whether you are still interested in these e-mails, as the County Attorney’s Office is legally required to review any document before release, and it is extremely likely that the time needed to review these e-mails will exceed your two free hours under the MPIA. As required by law, the County will consider your fee-waiver request.

Sincerely,

Zachary Kieffer
County Attorney

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Rosalinda Pascual
Deputy County Attorney



Aaron R. Weiss
Assistant County Attorney

Victor Scarpelli
Assistant County Attorney

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Richard Wilson
President and Treasurer
League of Women Voters of Washington County
Sent electronically to: secretary@lwvmd.org

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

Your organization is one of those from which the members of the Commission must be chosen. Therefore, I request that you recommend the name of a qualified person who would represent your organization by serving on the Commission. After all recommendations have been received, the Commissioners will appoint the respective members recommended by each organization.

Please contact our office by February 28, 2025, and provide our legal assistant with the name, address, telephone number, and email address of your recommended representative. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Victor J. Scarpelli
Assistant County Attorney

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Jim Kline
President

Joint Veterans Council of Washington County

Sent to: P.O. Box 3664 Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Mr. Kline:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

George Koontz
President
Western Maryland Central Labor Council
Sent to: 152-154 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502
Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Mr. Koontz:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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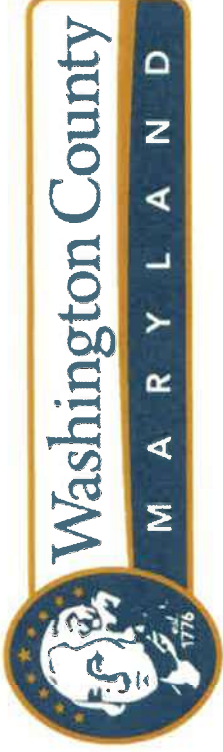
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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Ms. Beth Harvey
Chair

Republican Central Committee of Washington County
Sent electronically to: committee@wcmdgop.com

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Ms. Harvey:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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Victor Scarpelli
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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Ms. Angela Batista
Chair

Democratic Central Committee of Washington County
Sent electronically to: Chair@wcdcmd.com

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Ms. Batista:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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Victor Scarpelli
Assistant County Attorney

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Kendall Abruzzese
Western Maryland Regional Field Manager
Washington County Farm Bureau

Sent electronically to: kabruzzese@marylandfb.org

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Ms. Abruzzese:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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Victor Scarpelli
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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Amos McCoy
President & CEO
Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors Inc.
Sent electronically to: amos@abccvc.com

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 14, 2025

Mr. Paul Frey
CEO

Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Sent electronically to: paul@hagerstown.org

Re: 2025 Washington County Salary Study Commission

Dear Mr. Frey:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County is in the process of organizing the Washington County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") as mandated by Md. Code Annotated, Local Government §§28-201 to 28-209, the text of which is enclosed. The law requires that a commission of nine (9) members be appointed to evaluate the salaries of the elected officials listed in §28-207. The statute provides in §28-203(b) that "Each member shall be a registered voter of Washington County who in the previous 4 years has voted in at least two elections, at least one of which was in the gubernatorial election year." The Statute also requires that "A member of the Commission may not be an elected official or an employee of an official whose salary the Commission studies."

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