

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF
FORUMS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT ALL MEETINGS OF BOARDS,
COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND COMMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland (hereinafter, the “Board of County Commissioners”) is authorized and empowered to and has established or makes appointments to several boards, committees, councils, and commissions;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Chapter 11 of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances by Ordinance No. 40-16 on November 29, 2016 to address certain term limits and administrative and policy matters pertaining to volunteer boards and committees appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, and amended by Ordinance 33-20;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires that public be invited to provide comments and feedback at all open meetings of boards, committees, councils, and commissions appointed by the Board of County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing regarding the amendment of Chapter 11 of the Code was duly advertised for two consecutive weeks before the public hearing held on November 16, 2021 at which time the Board of County Commissioners received public comment; and

WHEREAS, upon due consideration of the comments of the public and staff, the Board of County Commissioners finds it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County, Maryland to adopt the proposed amendment to Chapter 11 of the Calvert County Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland hereby approves and enacts the following amendment of Chapter 11 of the Calvert County Code:

1. Append the following to new section §11-2(g) to read as follows:
 - (g) Every board, committee, council, and commission shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide input and feedback on the business of the County and that board, committee, council, or commission upon its open session agenda under the heading “Public Comment.” The following shall be observed during Public Comment:
 - 1) Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. Therefore, any individual, or the appointed spokesperson for a group, is welcome to address the members of every County board, committee, council, and commission on any matter germane to the business of County government during the “Public Comment” portion upon being recognized by the Chair of the board, committee, council, or commission.
 - 2) Every effort should be made to be fair and impartial in listening to public comments. No signs of partiality, prejudice or disrespect should be evident on the part of individual members of the board, committee, council, or commission toward an individual participating in a public meeting.
 - 3) Members should listen to comments from the public and ask for clarification if they do not understand the comment.

- 4) Persons addressing the board, committee, council, or commission during Public Comment shall:
 - i. Be given at least two (2) minutes if speaking as an individual, or five (5) minutes if speaking as the designated representative of a group;
 - ii. Identify themselves by name and address;
 - iii. Refrain from statements, remarks, or conduct that is uncivil, rude, vulgar, profane or otherwise disruptive to the conducting of the Board’s business; and
 - iv. Refrain from making a statement or remarks that concern only the private activities, lifestyles, or beliefs of others, including individual employees of the County or its elected officials, unrelated to the business of the County or the professional duties and performance of its employees or the employees of its elected officials.
- 5) Written comments submitted for Public Comment shall be posted and included within the Public Comment section of the next published agenda.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that, in the event any portion of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforceable and valid, unless deletion of the invalid portion would defeat the clear purpose of the Ordinance, or unless deletion of the valid portion would produce a result inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the Board of County Commissioners in enacting this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated and adopted as if fully set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that this Ordinance shall be effective upon recordation and publication of a fair summary.

DONE, this 16th day of November, 2021, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye: _____ 5
 Nay: _____ 0
 Absent/Abstain: _____ 0

[Signatures on Following Page]

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT
COUNTY, MARYLAND**


Rachel M. Distel, Clerk


Earl F. Hance, President

Approved for form and legal
sufficiency by:


Steven R. Weems, Vice-President


Christopher J. Gadway


John B. Norris, III, County Attorney


Mike Hart


Kelly D. McConkey

Filed for Record... November 18, 2021
8:40 o'clock... A M. Same day
Recorded in Liber KPS No. 66
No. 212 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

