

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CALVERT COUNTY ETHICS CODE TO
COMPLY WITH CH. 370 LAWS OF MARYLAND 2024**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 5-807 of the *General Provisions Article* and Section 12-107 of the *Local Government Article*, both Articles of the Maryland Annotated Code, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, is mandated to enact provisions to govern the public ethics of local officials relating to conflicts of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying with respect to Calvert County, and has heretofore adopted the Calvert County Code of Ethics by Resolution Number 15-95, enacted May 30, 1995, and amended by Ordinance Number 6-97 on January 28, 1997, amended by Ordinance 20-12 recorded on April 19, 2012, and amended by Ordinance 45-14 recorded on November 26, 2014, and amended by Ordinance 42-17 recorded on September 26, 2017, and amended by Ordinance 39-22 recorded on September 20, 2022, and codified as the Calvert County Code of Ethics at Chapter 41 of the “Ordinances and Resolutions” within the Code of Public Local Laws of Calvert County, Maryland (hereinafter, the “Code”);

WHEREAS, the Calvert County Ethics Commission has recommended a change to Chapter 41 of the Code to address legislation that passed the Maryland General Assembly and was enacted by the Governor as Ch. 370 Laws of Maryland 2024, codified at Sections 5–807(a), 5–902, and 5–811.1 of the *General Provisions Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, and Section 12–107 of the *Local Government Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly advertised for two consecutive weeks before the public hearing held on July 15, 2025, at which time the Board of County Commissioners received public comment regarding the proposed amendment to Chapter 41 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, upon considering the testimony presented at the Public Hearing regarding the recommendations of the Ethics Commission and County 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 those amendments proposed by the Calvert County Ethics Commission as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland hereby approves and enacts the following amendments to Chapter 41 of the Code:

1. Append as a new subpart (K) at Section 41-13 of the Code the following:
(K) The Calvert County Ethics Commission may make a recommendation to expel a County Commissioner for violations of this Section 41-13 of this Code, or any law or regulation enacted under Section 5–807(a)(1) of the *General Provisions Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code relating to conflicts of interest. Any such recommendation shall be made public.
2. Append as a new subpart (D) at Section 41-22 of the Code the following:
(D) Upon recommendation of the Calvert County Ethics Commission pursuant to Section 41-13 of this Code, the County Commissioners may remove a County Commissioner from office following a hearing conducted in accordance with the “Contested Case” procedures adopted by Ordinance 51-20, as amended

from time to time, for violations of Section 41-13 of this Code, or any law or regulation enacted under Section 5-807(a)(1) of the *General Provisions Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code relating to conflicts of interest.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the staff shall begin to plan for the public being provided internet access, through an online registration system, to the financial disclosure statements submitted by local elected officials, candidates for office, and heads of principal departments.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that Chapter 41 of the Code, as amended hereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

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 RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND 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 5th day of August, 2025, 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]

BK0077PG0164

Re: Amendment of Chapter 41, Ethics, within the Code of Calvert County

ATTEST:

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

Katie Brittain
Katie Brittain, Clerk

Earl F. Hance
Earl F. Hance, President

Todd Ireland
Todd Ireland, Vice President

Mark C. Cox Sr.
Mark C. Cox Sr.

Catherine M. Grasso
Catherine M. Grasso

Mike Hart
Mike Hart

Approved for form and legal
sufficiency by:

John B. Norris, III
John B. Norris, III, County Attorney

Received for Record... August 8 ... 2025
... 4:08 ... o'clock... P ... M. Same day
Recorded in Liber KPS No. 77
Folio... 162 ... COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

Garry P. Smith