Montgomery County Council

Committee: GO
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #6
October 27, 2026
Public Hearing

SUBJECT

Expedited Bill 49-26, Administration – Office of the County Executive – Non-merit Positions

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando

Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Evans, Glass, Katz, Mink, and Sayles

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Public speakers

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Receive testimony.
- A worksession of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee is scheduled for November 13.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Expedited Bill 49-26 would:

(1) increase the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers within the Office of the County Executive; and
(2) generally amend the law regarding County personnel and appointments.

This report contains:

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Agenda Item #6
October 27, 2026
Public Hearing

M E M O R A N D U M

October 22, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 49-26, Administration – Office of the County Executive – Non-merit Positions

PURPOSE: Public hearing – receive testimony

Expedited Bill 49-26, Administration – Office of the County Executive – Non-merit Positions, was introduced on October 13, 2026. The Lead Sponsor is Councilmember Jawando. Co-Sponsors are Councilmembers Evans, Glass, Katz, Mink, and Sayles.

A public hearing is scheduled for October 27, 2026. The Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will hold a worksession on the bill on November 13.

Expedited Bill 49-26 would:

(1) increase the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers within the Office of the County Executive; and
(2) generally amend the law regarding County personnel and appointments.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Lead Sponsor has explained the mechanics and purpose of the Expedited Bill as follows.

The bill would increase "the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers (ACAOs) from four to six by repurposing two existing positions in the Office of the County Executive. County government has grown in size and in what residents ask of it. Six ACAOs gives each a portfolio one person can reasonably manage, and gives every department a senior leader in the County Executive's office who is directly accountable for it…

"Residents judge the County government by whether it works: whether the permit gets issued, the call gets returned, and the program does what we said it would do. These bills strengthen County government by giving every department clear leadership that answers for results, with the Council confirming who those leaders are." See Sponsor's Memorandum at © 3.

BILL SPECIFICS

As stated by the Lead Sponsor, the Expedited Bill would increase the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers (ACAOs) from four to six.

The Code of Montgomery County Regulations (COMCOR) 01A.104.20.01 describes the ACAO position as follows:

> This is high level staff work directly supporting the Chief Administrative Officer and County Executive by carrying out a variety of assignments and functions in the executive branch of the County Government. As the incumbent of a non-merit position within Montgomery County Government, the employee will be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Contacts include the County Executive, Chief Administrative Officer, elected County Councilmembers and their senior staff, department and agency directors, division chiefs, officials from other government jurisdictions, corporate officers representing private sector companies, and representatives of public and private groups for the purpose of presenting, justifying, or defending policies and issues affecting the County Government.

The ACAO positions are part of the Office of the County Executive. The other non-merit, appointed positions within the Office of the County Executive, in addition to the ACAOs, include:

- 5 Directors of the Regional Services Centers;
- Director, Office of Community Partnerships;
- Director of Strategic Partnerships;
- 2 Special Projects Managers; and
- Chief Labor Relations Officer.

(Montgomery County Code, Section 2-26).

Legislation to create new non-merit positions requires the affirmative vote of seven Councilmembers for enactment. (Montgomery County Charter, Section 401).

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Expedited Bill No. 49-26
Concerning: Administration – Office of the County Executive – Non-merit Positions
Revised: 10/13/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: October 13, 2026
Expires: December 7, 2026
Enacted:
Executive:
Effective:
Sunset Date: None
Ch. ____, Laws of Mont. Co.

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Evans, Glass, Katz, Mink, Sayles

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

(1) increase the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers within the Office of the County Executive; and
(2) generally amend the law regarding County personnel and appointments.

By amending
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 2, Administration
Sections 2-26

Boldface	*Heading or a defined term.*
Underlining	*Added to existing law by original bill.*
[Single boldface brackets**]**	*Deleted from existing law by original bill.*
Double underlining	*Added by amendment.*
[[Double boldface brackets**]]**	*Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.*
* * *	*Existing law unaffected by bill.*

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following Act:

Sec 1. Section 2-26 is amended as follows:

2-26. Non-merit positions.

The following positions in the Office of the County Executive are non-merit positions:

(a) 5 Directors of the Regional Services Centers;

(b) Director, Office of Community Partnerships;

(c) Director of Strategic Partnerships;

(d) **[**4**]** 6 Assistant Chief Administrative Officers;

(e) 2 Special Projects Managers; and

(f) Chief Labor Relations Officer.

Sec. 2. Expedited effective date. The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes law.

M E M O R A N D U M

October 5, 2026

TO: Council President Natali Fani-González

CC: Councilmembers

FROM: Will Jawando, Councilmember At-Large

SUBJECT: Request for Introduction of Two Expedited Bills on Executive Branch Leadership

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I am writing to request introduction of two expedited bills on Tuesday, October 13. Both bills strengthen the leadership of the Executive Branch so County departments deliver better results for residents, and both bring those leadership positions before the Council for confirmation.

The first bill, Administration – Office of the County Executive – Non-Merit Positions, increases the number of Assistant Chief Administrative Officers (ACAOs) from four to six by repurposing two existing positions in the Office of the County Executive. County government has grown in size and in what residents ask of it. Six ACAOs gives each a portfolio one person can reasonably manage, and gives every department a senior leader in the County Executive's office who is directly accountable for it.

The second bill, Administration – Non-Merit Appointments – Deputy Directors, makes the remaining merit deputy-level positions in the Executive Branch, four Fire and Rescue Service division chiefs, and the Executive Directors of certain non-principal offices non-merit positions appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Council. Previous administrations and Councils have already converted most of the County's deputy leadership, and this bill completes that work. Executive Directors serving when the bill takes effect would be grandfathered; the deputy-level positions would convert on the bill's effective date.

Residents judge the County government by whether it works: whether the permit gets issued, the call gets returned, and the program does what we said it would do. These bills strengthen County government by giving every department clear leadership that answers for results, with the Council confirming who those leaders are.

I look forward to discussing these bills with you and our colleagues.