

ORD-2026-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED 'AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL SURCHARGE (charge in addition to the 9-1-1 fee) ON TELEPHONE BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE ("CMRS") OR OTHER 9-1-1 ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO PROVIDE A WIRELESS ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND'

RECITALS

Washington County (the "County") has the authority to impose a local surcharge (charge) in addition to the State 9-1-1 fee to all telephone bills rendered for switched local exchange service, Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS"), or other 9-1-1 accessible service pursuant to MD. Code, Public Safety Article, Section 1-311.

Per Md. Code, Public Safety Article, Section 1-311(c)(1), a county may impose a 9-1-1 fee of up to \$0.75 to be added to all current bills rendered for switched local exchange access service, CMRS, or other 9-1-1 accessible service in the county.

On October 21, 2003, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") approved the enactment an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL SURCHARGE (fee in addition to the 9-1-1 fee) ON TELEPHONE BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE ('CMRS') OR OTHER 9-1-1 ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO PROVIDE A WIRELESS ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND." The 2003 Ordinance for the local surcharge of the 9-1-1 Fee is recorded at Liber 10, Folio 129 in Acts, Ordinances and Resolutions for Washington County.

If revenues attributable to the county's 9-1-1 fee for a fiscal year do not provide the revenues necessary to cover a county's operational costs for the 9-1-1 system for the said fiscal year, section 1-311(c)(2) allows a county to impose a 9-1-1 to cover the county's projected operations costs of the 9-1-1 system for the following fiscal year, even if that fee exceeds \$0.75.

On March 26, 2024, the Board approved to enact an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL SURCHARGE (fee in addition to the 9-1-1 fee) ON TELEPHONE BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE ('CMRS') OR OTHER 9-1-1 ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO PROVIDE A WIRELESS ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE IN

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND” which increased the county’s 9-1-1 fee from \$0.75 to \$1.25. The 2024 Ordinance for the local surcharge of the 9-1-1 Fee is recorded at Liber 17, Folio 488 in Acts, Ordinances and Resolutions for Washington County.

On March 18, 2025, the Board approved to enact an Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL SURCHARGE (fee in addition to the 9-1-1 fee) ON TELEPHONE BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE (‘CMRS’) OR OTHER 9-1-1 ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO PROVIDE A WIRELESS ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND” which increased the county’s 9-1-1 fee from \$1.25 to \$1.75. The 2025 Ordinance for the local surcharge of the 9-1-1 Fee is recorded at Liber 17, Folio 0572 in Acts, Ordinances and Resolutions for Washington County.

The proposed modification is to increase the fee from \$1.75 per month, per bill, to \$2.00 per month, per bill, which totals a projected revenue that falls below the projected operating costs for the 9-1-1 system.

As required by Md. Code, Public Safety Article, Section 1-311(b), a public hearing was held on March 17, 2026, following due notice and advertisement of the proposed increase. Pursuant to Md. Code, Public Safety Article, Section 1-311(e), the County shall certify this amount to the Public Services Commission, the State 9-1-1 Board, and no later than 60 days before implementation of said change, the Comptroller. The fee change subject to this ordinance is implemented on July 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, that the March 18, 2025 Ordinance recorded at Liber 17, Folio 0572 of the Acts, Ordinances and Resolutions for Washington County is hereby amended to reflect that the local surcharge (charges in addition to the 9-1-1 fee) shall be \$2.00 per month, per bill, and shall be applied to all bills beginning July 1, 2026, rendered for switched local exchange access service, or CMRS, or other 9-1-1 accessible service within Washington County.

Adopted this 17 day of March, 2026.

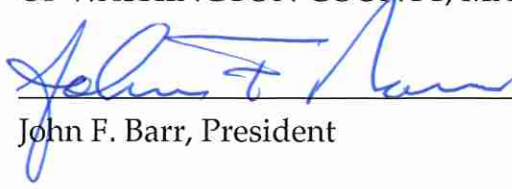
Effective the 1st day of July, 2026.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND



Dawn L. Marcus, Clerk



John F. Barr, President

Approved as to form  
and legal sufficiency:



Aaron Weiss

Assistant County Attorney

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