

**BYLAWS
of the
Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee**

**to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee and the
Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee**

Amendments adopted February 2026

Section 1: NAME/PROVENANCE

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) serves as an advisor to and at the pleasure of the [Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee \(MWAQC\)](#). It also serves as an advisor to the [Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee \(CEEPC\)](#).

Section 2: MISSION

The mission of ACPAC is to act as a mechanism for facilitating a dialogue among diverse interest groups, the community at large, CEEPC, and MWAQC; to advise MWAQC in the development of an air quality plan; to assist in reviewing the consequences of air quality policies and programs, informing and educating the general public about MWAQC and CEEPC activities, and eliciting ideas from the public at large; to initiate discussions of relevant climate, energy, and air issues; to represent to MWAQC and CEEPC diverse community interests and opinions in the air quality and climate planning process; to advise and make recommendations to MWAQC and CEEPC on outreach to the public as it relates project or program development when needed; to comment on the air quality aspects of climate change issues; and to assume such other responsibilities as MWAQC or CEEPC shall determine.

Section 3: MEMBERSHIP

3.1: Membership Generally

ACPAC shall consist of individuals chosen by MWAQC to represent key elements of the community (e.g., business/industry, education/scientific, environmental/health, and civic organizations) in such numbers as determined by MWAQC. As much as practical, MWAQC shall seek balance among these categories as well as geographic balance across the Washington metropolitan region. ACPAC shall consist of members that live in the COG region and have a maximum of 18 members.

In their advisory capacity, members are charged with making suggestions to MWAQC and CEEPC formally through ACPAC. The members may identify themselves as members of this committee, but only the chair or designee of the chair will speak specifically for ACPAC.

3.2: Term of Membership

MWAQC shall appoint individuals to ACPAC for three-year terms. Terms will be staggered so that, insofar as possible, one-third of appointments shall expire each year. Initial length of terms under these bylaws shall be determined by lot among the members. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. Typically, a member will not serve more than two full terms, however MWAQC may appoint a member for additional terms.

3.3: Membership Solicitation

In the Fall the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will announce and publicize potential vacancies on the COG website and call for the nomination of persons to serve as members through mid-January of the next year. COG will prepare an online application form requesting background information and an expression of interest from members of the public that live in the metropolitan Washington region. The application submission will be done through the online form. COG will promote membership solicitation through online means to organizations in the region known to have an interest in air quality, climate, and energy, and to any individual who so requests. Individuals may be nominated by organizations, may be self-nominated or may be nominated by ACPAC, itself. The MWAQC Executive Committee will review the nominations and determine appointments and reappointments on an annual basis at its February meeting. The CEEPC Chair may review the new appointments and participate in the February MWAQC Executive Committee to provide comments on the appointments. The vote for appointments and reappointments resides with the MWAQC Executive Committee. ACPAC's term for new members will begin in March.

3.4: Vacancies/Removal

Vacancies may occur upon resignation, disability, or removal by MWAQC for lack of participation or other good causes. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, MWAQC may appoint a successor from its existing files of nominees or may call for additional nominations. If the member whose departure caused the vacancy was nominated by an organization, that organization may nominate a potential replacement. Vacancies will be filled for the unexpired term of the departing member.

Section 4: OFFICERS

4.1: Terms and Election of Officers

The offices of Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the members of ACPAC at the January meeting, and each shall serve one year and may be reelected. Within the same program year, the Chair and Vice Chair must be from different states. As much as practical, the Chair and Vice Chair positions will rotate to a different state each year.

In November, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Subcommittee of three people, one member each from Maryland, DC, and Virginia. There shall be a minimum of ten days' notice of the Nominating Subcommittee's list of nominees for officers transmitted to ACPAC members prior to the date of election. At the meeting when the election is held, after the Nominating Subcommittee presents its slate, the Chair will request nominations from the

floor. The selection of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be determined by ballot. After nominations from the floor are received, the nominations will be closed and ballots shall be cast. The results of the ballot will be revealed at the end of the meeting, and the new officers will assume their positions at the close of that ACPAC meeting.

The election of officers shall be held during the month of January. In the event of a vacancy of an officership, ACPAC shall elect a replacement at the next meeting.

4.2: Duties of Officers

Chair

The Chair of the ACPAC sets meeting agendas, presides over all ACPAC meetings, appoints subcommittees and carries out any other duties assigned by ACPAC. The Chair will be the primary liaison with COG staff.

Vice Chair

Upon the inability or unwillingness of the Chair to serve, the Vice Chair, if willing, shall succeed to the chair for the remainder of the term. In the temporary absence or incapacity of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall carry out the duties of the Chair. The ACPAC shall select an acting chair in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair.

Section 5: QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES

5.1: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of representation of at least half the ACPAC membership. Failing a quorum, the Chair may submit the question to non-present members electronically, together with a brief context of the proposed vote and any written back-up material furnished to the present members. Non-present members shall have one week to register a vote, by return email, to the Chair, with a copy to relevant COG staff. After expiration of a week, if there is less than a quorum of votes cast, the question will be deemed to have failed.

5.2: Voting Procedures

It is a goal of ACPAC that all matters shall be resolved collegially through the development of consensus positions. Simple majority vote of representatives present shall prevail on all voting.

Section 6: MEETINGS AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

6.1: Meetings

The full ACPAC membership shall meet every other month, typically on the fourth Monday. ACPAC meetings are held virtually unless otherwise noted. ACPAC members may agree to meet in-person with a virtual option. All in-person meetings will be held in COG Offices.

6.2: Parliamentary Authority

The Rules of Procedure of the Council of Governments shall be the parliamentary authority for the conduct of meetings of ACPAC, unless MWAQC specifies otherwise. Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern where no established COG or MWAQC procedure applies.

6.3: Appointment of Subcommittees and ACPAC Delegates

The Chair, upon approval of ACPAC, may appoint subcommittees and ACPAC delegates as deemed necessary for conducting its business and for liaison with other committees and organizations.

Section 7: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of MWAQC. Notice of the amendment shall be submitted in writing by MWAQC at the preceding meeting of ACPAC and submitted in writing to MWAQC members no less than 14 days prior to the vote of the amendment. ACPAC's views of any bylaw amendment will be considered.

Section 8: CONDUCT

ACPAC members will comport themselves courteously and be respectful towards each other. If the majority of ACPAC members present at an ACPAC meeting vote that an ACPAC member is disruptive to the normal process of a meeting, that person may be asked to leave the meeting. If the behavior continues, ACPAC may recommend to MWAQC for that member to be removed from the committee. See ACPAC's [Rules of Procedure](#) for more information.