



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

O-19-24

Elections - Ballot Questions

This summary was prepared by the City of Annapolis Office of Law for use by members of the Annapolis City Council during consideration of the legislation.

BILL SUMMARY

O-19-24 implements the recommendations of the City of Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections to update the City's election law before the 2025 municipal elections.

These changes only apply to city-wide elections run by the City Board of Supervisors of Elections and not county, state, or federal elections, which may include City issues.

This does not impact the 2024 national and state elections.

Chapter 4.40 - Ballot Questions

Section 4.40.010 - Purpose and Applicability.

The Ballot Questions chapter outlines the process for adding a ballot question to the city municipal ballot for a popular vote by registered city voters.

A ballot question is a proposition that City voters decide whether to approve or reject. It can include spending money, a policy issue, changing the City Code, or any such question.



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Section 4.40.030 - Ballot Question Process.

Explains the process for citizens and the City Council to get a ballot question on the ballot. The process varies depending on the type of issue.

The Council places an issue on the ballot by legislative action.

City residents must gather signatures on a petition. Petitioners must get signatures from at least 10% of registered City voters, at least 250 of which must be from each City's election wards.

The total number needed is based on the number of registered voters in the City when the petition is certified by the City Council as meeting the requirements. The Council certifies a petition by an approval resolution.

Section 4.40.050 – Ballot Question Petition Verification and Presentation to City Council.

O-19-24 requires the City Attorney to review the question language for legal sufficiency. It allows the petitioners to take the issue to the Council if the question is ruled legally insufficient.

Other Sections

Other sections in the O-19-24 include legislative style changes and copyediting.