



City of Annapolis

Maryland

Board of Supervisors of Elections

AMENDED REFERRAL 10/20/22

DATE: October 20, 2022

TO: City Council

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment **CA-2-22** the Charter –Article II - Board of Supervisors of Elections.

The Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections reviewed and discussed CA-2-22, THE CHARTER - Article II - Board of Supervisors of Elections, at its September 15, 2022 meeting. We recommended the postponement of this legislation for the following reasons:

- The proposal does not include a mechanism for choosing new members, and the current process only allows for those to be appointed from a list provided by the Democratic Central Committee and/or Republican Central Committee ([here](#)).
- The proposal does not allow full consideration by the Task Force, created under the adoption of R-52-22, “A Task Force to Study the City Municipal Election Laws and Make Recommendations, If Needed, to Improve the City Code, Structure, and Procedures for City Municipal Elections.”

The Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections is in the process of seeking task force members to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Board is confident the members will review Annapolis' election law in its entirety, including the election statement put forth by the Charter Revision Commission. We look forward to the task force's analysis and recommendations.

In summary, the Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections recommends that **CA-2-22** be postponed.

Board of Supervisors of Elections

Footnote (Charter Review Commission's Election Statement):

"Position 2: Expand the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Recommend amending Article II – Elections, Section 6(a) as follows:

'The Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be comprised of five (5) residents and registered voters of the city; two of which shall always be from the leading political parties of the state, two from either of the leading political parties of the state, and one not a member of either of the leading parties of the state.'

Analysis

Expanding the Board of Supervisors of Elections from three (3) to five (5) members would allow for increased representation of all city voters; enable a more responsible division of the Board's substantial workload; and, offer members the opportunity to work on a committee basis. The current membership of three (3) individuals does not permit distribution of workload by committee because current city rules provide that anytime a quorum is constituted - - in this case two members of the three (3) member Board - - the meeting is subject to all applicable open meeting rules. Open public meetings of Boards and Commissions require the posting of an agenda prior to the meeting and public access.

Consequential changes to the City Code will be required to ensure that the five-member Board adequately represents the City's political parties and its diverse population."