

## QUESTION A: LOCAL REFERENDUM

### **Caroline County Board of Education – Election and Appointment of Members**

Chapter 633 of 2009 (Senate Bill 964)

#### Summary

The voters of Caroline County will be asked whether they approve of restructuring the Caroline County Board of Education from a board for which all five members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to a board with a combination of two members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and three members elected by the voters in the three board of education districts in Caroline County that would be established by the County Commissioners of Caroline County. If the voters of Caroline County approve this Question, the provisions of the proposed statute described below will also become law.

Each board of education district established by the county commissioners would have to be substantially equal in population and reapportioned on the basis of each decennial U.S. census. Reapportioned districts would become effective for the term of office commencing after the first regular primary election held at least 15 months after the official report on population is received by the State from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Each elected member would be elected only by the voters of the education district that the member represents. To be elected to the board, an individual would be required to be at least 21 years old and be a registered voter, a resident of the county for at least three years, and a resident of the district the member represents. An individual would not be able to serve on the board if he or she is employed by or under the direction of the county board of education or the county superintendent of schools.

The terms of the board members elected in November 2012 would be staggered as follows: the two elected candidates receiving the highest number of votes would serve four-year terms; the one elected candidate receiving the fewest votes would serve a two-year term. Following subsequent elections, each elected member would serve a four-year term. The term of a voting member would begin on the first Monday in December after the election and would last until a successor is elected and qualifies.

The terms of appointed board members in office on October 1, 2009 would expire at the end of December 2, 2012. The initial terms of appointed members would be staggered as follows: one appointed member would serve a term of six years, and the other appointed member

would serve a term of four years, each beginning the first Monday in December 2012. Thereafter, appointed members would serve four-year terms.

Voting board members would be required to elect a president and vice president at the first meeting in December of each year. The board would meet at least once each month, and all meetings would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

The board president would receive \$4,000 annual compensation and other voting members would receive \$3,500. As provided in the county budget, voting members would be entitled to an allowance for travel and other expenses. Voting members would not be eligible for fringe benefits provided by the county public school system, the county board of education, or the county commissioners, including health insurance, life insurance, or pensions.

Procedures would be established for filling board vacancies, including officer vacancies, and for the removal of voting board members for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty. A member who no longer resides in the education district that the member represents or is not a registered voter of the county would not be able to continue as a board member.