

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

**LARRY HOGAN**  
GOVERNOR

**BOYD K. RUTHERFORD**  
LT. GOVERNOR



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**JOHN C. WOBENSMITH**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

August 2, 2022

Linda H. Lamone, Esq.  
State Elections Administrator  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Ballot Language

Dear Ms. Lamone:

Pursuant to Section 7-103(c) of the Elections Law (“EL”) Article of the Maryland Code, I have prepared and hereby certify to you “the information required under [EL §7-103(b)], for all statewide ballot questions” as follows:

**Question 1**

**Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 82 of the 2021 Legislative Session)  
Court of Appeals and Special Appeals – Renaming**

Changes the names of Maryland’s appellate courts from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and from the Court of Special Appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland. Under the new law, judges serving on the Court of Appeals will be justices of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland.

(Amending Article II, Section 6, Article III, Sections 5, 30 and 52, Article IV, Sections 1, 3, 3A, 4B, 5A, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 41E, Article V, Section 6, and Article XVII, Section 3 to the Maryland Constitution)

**For the Constitutional Amendment  
Against the Constitutional Amendment**

**Question 2**

**Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 808 of 2021 Legislative Session)  
Legislative Department – Eligibility to Serve as Senators and Delegates – Place of  
Abode**

Adds to the eligibility requirements to serve as a senator or a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly by requiring a person to have maintained a primary place of abode in the district that the person has been chosen to represent. Under current law, a person must have resided in the district to which the person has been elected for at least six months immediately preceding the date of the person's election or, if the district has been established for less than six months prior to the date of election, as long as the district has been established. The new law requires, beginning January 1, 2024, a person must have both resided in and maintained a primary place of abode in the district for the same time periods as under current law.

(Amending Article III, Section 9 to the Maryland Constitution)

**For the Constitutional Amendment  
Against the Constitutional Amendment**

**Question 3**

**Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 809 of 2021 Legislative Session)**

**Civil Jury Trials**

Authorizing the General Assembly to enact legislation that limits the right to a jury trial in a civil proceeding to those proceedings in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000, excluding attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable in the proceeding. Under current law, the amount in controversy must exceed \$15,000 before a party to a proceeding may demand a jury trial. In cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed this threshold amount, a judge, rather than a jury, determines the verdict.

(Amending Maryland Declaration of Rights - Articles 5(a) and 23)

**For the Constitutional Amendment  
Against the Constitutional Amendment**

**Question 4**

**Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 45 of the 2022 Legislative Session)**

**Cannabis – Legalization of Adult Use and Possession**

Do you favor the legalization of the use of cannabis by an individual who is at least 21 years of age on or after July 1, 2023, in the State of Maryland?

(Adding Article XX, Section 1 to the Maryland Constitution)

**For the Constitutional Amendment  
Against the Constitutional Amendment**

**Question 5**

**Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 539 of the 2022 Legislative Session)**

**Circuit Court for Howard County – Judges Sitting as Orphans' Court**

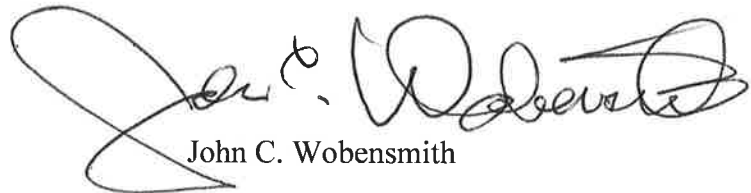
Repeals county elections of Howard County orphans' court judges and requires the Howard County Circuit Court judges to sit as the orphans' court for Howard County. The current law provides for the voters of Howard County to elect three orphans' court judges. Under the amended law, a party could no longer appeal a final judgment of the Howard County Orphans Court to the Howard County Circuit Court and would instead take an appeal directly to the Court of Special Appeals.

(Amending Article IV, Sections 20 and 40 to the Maryland Constitution)

**For the Constitutional Amendment  
Against the Constitutional Amendment**

Please let me know if you will also need an electronic version of the language.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Wobensmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John C. Wobensmith

Copy: Josaphine B. Yuzuik  
Assistant Attorney General