

WASHINGTON COUNTY:

Catherine L. Beachley.....	1655 Prospect Street, Hagerstown	21740
E. Stuart Bushong.....	100 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown	21740
Vincent R. Groh.....	40 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown	21740
Richard Grumbacher.....	1151 The Terrace, Hagerstown	21740

WICOMICO COUNTY:

E. Dale Adkins, Jr.....	111 High Street, Salisbury	21801
Hamilton P. Fox.....	East Main Street, Salisbury	21801

WORCESTER COUNTY:

Godfrey Child.....	2 Winter Quarters Drive, Pocomoke City	21851
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On September 12, 1967, the Constitutional Convention of Maryland assembled in the House of Delegates chamber of the State House in Annapolis to write a new constitution for the State of Maryland to replace the document which had been in effect since 1867. The Convention consisted of 142 delegates, elected on June 13, 1967, from the same districts as were used in the 1966 general election for the election of members of the House of Delegates. The calling of the Convention was authorized by the General Assembly when it enacted Chapter 500 of the Acts of 1966, followed by a public endorsement in a special referendum election held on September 13, 1966.

A concentrated effort for a constitutional convention began in June, 1965, when Governor J. Millard Tawes appointed a 27-member Constitutional Convention Commission to determine whether the 1867 Constitution should be revised or modified, whether a constitutional convention should be called to revise the constitution, and, if so, to prepare a study and recommendation with respect to such revision and the holding of a constitutional convention. The Commission reported in September, 1965, after review, that a complete revision was necessary and desirable, and should be accomplished by means of a constitutional convention composed of delegates elected from all parts of the State.

The 1966 General Assembly enacted the two laws which set in motion the machinery for the calling of a constitutional convention. Chapter 501 of the Acts of 1966 provided for the holding of a special referendum election on September 13, 1966, to "take the sense of the people" on the calling of the constitutional convention to frame a new constitution. The vote on this referendum was 160,280 in favor of a constitutional convention and 31,680 against. A second Act, Chapter 500, provided for the calling of a convention on September 12, 1967, should the "sense of the people" favor a convention in the September 13, 1966, election. Since the vote favoring a convention was overwhelmingly favorable, the Commission began to prepare for a constitutional convention and commenced a study of the present Constitution.

The 1967 General Assembly enacted three additional acts pertaining to a constitutional convention. Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1967 authorized and directed the Attorney General of Maryland to institute a declaratory judgment proceeding to determine the eligibility of certain persons to be delegates to a constitutional convention. In response to this action and upon an appeal from the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, the Court of Appeals of Maryland ruled on April 14, 1967, that the position of delegate to a constitutional convention is not an office within the meaning of Articles 33 and 35 of the Declaration of Rights or within the meaning of Section 6, Article I or Sections 11 and 17 of Article III of the Constitution of Maryland.

Chapter 4 of the Acts of 1967 provided for the election of delegates to, and the holding of a convention to frame a new constitution for