

(a) At the general or congressional election to be held in the month of November, 1972, when there will be submitted to the voters of Harford County a proposed new charter under Article XI-A of the Constitution of Maryland, there shall also be a primary election for the nomination of candidates for election to the County Council and for County Executive of Harford County. A vote cast against the adoption of the charter shall not be held to bar the voter from expressing his choice in this primary election. If a majority of the votes cast on the question of adoption of the charter are against adoption, the results of this primary election shall be void and of no further effect.

(b) If a majority of the votes cast on the question of adoption of the charter are cast for adoption, the several persons nominated in this primary election, together with those nominated by petition, shall be certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Harford County as the candidates for County Council and for County Executive of Harford County at the special election to be held thereafter on December 12, 1972, as provided in the proposed new charter.

(c) The Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Harford County shall do such things as are necessary and proper to conduct the primary election as herein required and the special election to be held thereafter, as aforesaid, if the proposed new charter is adopted. The said primary and special elections shall be held and conducted in general conformity with the provisions of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume, 1971 Supplement) insofar as the requirements thereof are reasonably applicable and practicable and, in case of conflict with other laws respecting elections, the provisions of this Chapter shall govern, including the following specifically authorized variations:

1) The final day for filing certificates of candidacy, and petitions in the case of nomination by petition, shall be 9:00 P.M. on the Monday which is ten weeks or seventy days prior to the date of the primary election authorized hereunder. The validity of nominations by petition shall be determined by said Board.

2) The use of paper ballots to such extent as may be deemed necessary or advisable by the Board of Supervisors of Elections for Harford County is hereby authorized.

3) Upon the determination and declaration of the nominees by the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Harford County pursuant to Section 17-6 of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board is authorized and directed to prepare immediately the ballot for the special election to be held on December 12, 1972.

4) In the event that the voting machines used in Harford County in the general election of November, 1972, are not released on or before November 25, 1972, under the provisions of Section 17-8 of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of Supervisors of Elections is authorized to lease a sufficient number of voting machines to conduct fairly said special election.

5) The results and conduct of the special election herein authorized shall not be affected by the failure of custodians and deputy custodians to give the required notice and to prepare voting ma-