

(c) The special primary to nominate candidates to fill the vacancy that will exist on February 18, 1996 in the 7th Congressional District shall be merged with the regular primary to nominate candidates for the next regular term of office.

(d) Any individual who has filed a certificate of candidacy for the regular primary shall be deemed to have filed a certificate of candidacy for the special primary. Any other qualified individual may file a certificate of candidacy, not later than ~~2 days after the effective date of this Act~~ 9:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, for the special primary and regular primary.

(e) Two certificates of nomination, one for the special election and one for the regular election, shall be issued to each candidate nominated in the merged primaries.

(f) Notwithstanding Article 33, § 9-1(a) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a nominee for the special election may decline the nomination by notifying the State Administrative Board of Election Laws ~~within 10 days after the special primary~~ not later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. The appropriate political party shall designate a substitute nominee not later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7. The notification shall conform to the requirements of Article 33, § 9-1(c) of the Annotated Code of Maryland. A nominee for the regular election may decline the nomination in the manner prescribed in Article 33, § 9-1(c).

~~(g) Notwithstanding Article 33, § 7-1 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, an individual of any political party affiliation may be nominated by petition in the manner otherwise prescribed in Article 33, § 7-1.~~

(g) (1) Notwithstanding Article 33, § 13-1, a petition for recount and recanvass of the special primary shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6.

(2) Notwithstanding Article 33, § 16-4(d)(2), the State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall certify the contents and arrangement of the ballot for the special election as soon as practicable. Notwithstanding Article 33, § 16-4(f), the ballot shall be posted for one day, and any challenge must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on the day of posting.

(3) Notwithstanding Article 33, § 18-1, the Board of Canvassers shall convene immediately after the vote totals in the 7th Congressional District primary from Baltimore City and Baltimore County are available.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of Article 33 that sets minimum time limits, the State Administrative Board of Election Laws, by order, may reduce the amount of time required or allowed for any election-related action pertaining to the special primary or special election. The State Board may not alter any time requirement relating to voting or polling place procedures on election day.

(h) ~~The~~ At the request of a local board of supervisors of elections, the State Administrative Board of Election Laws may authorize the use of any voting system, including paper ballots, in the special general election.

(i) This Act shall be void after December 31, 1996.