Laws
of the
State of Maryland.
Made and Passed
At a Session of the General Assembly First and Only at the
City of Annapolis on the First Day of January, 1890,
and ending on the Thirty-first Day of March, 1890.
Published by Authority.

Annapolis
George T. Melvin, State Printer.

1890.
CHAPTER 103.

224th General Assembly of the State of Maryland, ch. 65, "Elections," to be so enacted by the legislature of said State.

Every legal voter of said State shall be entitled to vote at every election, and a legal voter may vote for any number of candidates for any office, but not more than one for any office, unless the laws of said State otherwise provide.

The right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the State or any county, city, town, or incorporated village, on account of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The right to vote shall be protected by the State and all political subdivisions thereof, and no person shall be deprived of the right to vote on account of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

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Ballots may be grouped together. Such a group of ballots shall be prepared and submitted to the respective boards of supervisors of elections of the respective counties, or the chairman of the political party, who shall make a record thereof in the books and records of the said boards of supervisors, and shall group such ballots together for the purpose of printing as herein provided.

If in any city or town it shall be found that the number of candidates nominated for any office exceeds the number of candidates required to be printed on the ballot, the respective boards of supervisors of elections shall proceed to fill out the vacancies so occasioned by such nominations; but such declaration shall be made in writing, shall be recorded in the books and records of the said boards of supervisors, and shall be filed with the returning officer of the city or town. Such filing shall be made in writing in the form prescribed by law.

If in any county it shall be found that the number of candidates nominated for any office is less than the number of candidates required to be printed on the ballot, the respective boards of supervisors of elections shall proceed to fill out the vacancies so occasioned by such nominations; but such declaration shall be made in writing, shall be recorded in the books and records of the said boards of supervisors, and shall be filed with the returning officer of the county. Such filing shall be made in writing in the form prescribed by law.

No person shall be nominated to any office, except as provided in this section, except as provided by law. No person shall be nominated to any office until the declaration of nomination has been made in writing and recorded in the books and records of the respective boards of supervisors of elections. Such declaration shall be filed with the returning officer of the city or town. Such filing shall be made in writing in the form prescribed by law.

No person may be nominated to any office until the declaration of nomination has been made in writing and recorded in the books and records of the respective boards of supervisors of elections. Such declaration shall be filed with the returning officer of the city or town. Such filing shall be made in writing in the form prescribed by law.

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Before being deposited in any register of the State, it shall be marked 
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and the name of the person who has made the deposit, and in 
numbers the number of the book wherein the register is kept, 
descending for each new register in the manner prescribed in 
the first section of this Article. The voter may, at the time of the 
deposition, request a certificate for such register, and such 
person shall furnish it, and shall keep record of such request.
election, and other matters.

144. It shall be the duty of the supervisors of the city of Baltimore, and of other cities, to furnish to the city council, or to such city officers as may be designated by them, samples of the ballots, and copies of all such writings as shall be required by law; and the said samples and copies, and the specimen ballots, shall be kept under the care and custody of the city council, or of the said city officers, for such time as the said council, or the said officers, may by law provide; and the said council, or such officers, shall cause such specimen ballots, and the copies of the said writings, to be posted, or otherwise conspicuously displayed, in each city or town voting precinct, for the use of the electors thereof; and the said council, or such officers, shall give such written orders to the respective supervisors of each city or town voting precinct, as shall be necessary to enable them to perform the duties imposed upon them by law.

145. In the absence of the mayor of the city of Baltimore, the board of aldermen shall select one of their members to be the mayor for the time being, and to perform the duties of the office during the absence of the mayor. Such mayor shall serve only during the time he is so appointed, and thereupon his office shall be vacant. When such mayor shall cease to hold office, the two members of the board of aldermen next in seniority shall be chosen to fill the vacancy, and such choice shall be certified by the board of aldermen to the governor, and the governor shall forthwith appoint the two so chosen to be aldermen for the term of one year, or until the next regular annual election, and shall notify the aldermen so appointed thereof, and they shall then take the oath of office prescribed by law, and shall constitute a board of aldermen, in which case the board of aldermen shall be counted as a board of aldermen, for purposes of such election.
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The necessary equipment required to cast a vote includes a ballot box, a ballot, a voting machine, and a voter's identification card. The ballot box must be securely locked and placed in a secure location. The ballot, which contains the names of the candidates and the issues to be voted on, must be printed on durable paper and kept in a secure location. The voting machine must be capable of reading the marks made on the ballot by the voter.

The voter's identification card must be presented to the polling officer before the voter is allowed to cast their vote. The polling officer must verify the identity of the voter and ensure that the voter is eligible to vote. The voter's ballot must then be marked with a mark indicating the voter's choice and the ballot must be placed in the ballot box.

The voting process must be transparent and free from any form of interference. The voting machine must be programmed to prevent any form of fraud or manipulation. The results of the election must be certified by an independent body and the winning candidates must be declared.

The voting process must be supported by a system of checks and balances to ensure that the elections are fair and free from any form of corruption. The voting process must be supported by a system of laws and regulations to ensure that the elections are fair and free from any form of corruption.
...in years, the fine part of any nomination,

...shall be delivered to the governor, who shall
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...in any nomination, or shall remove any person

...shall continue in office during such a vacancy,

...shall continue in office during such a vacancy,

...shall continue in office during such a vacancy,

...shall continue in office during such a vacancy.

This act is to take effect on the first day of the
year next following its passage, and to continue in
force until the first day of the year following its
enactment.
STATE OF MARYLAND.

MADE AND PASSED

AT A SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS ON THE SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY,
1892, AND ENDED ON THE FOURTH DAY OF APRIL, 1892.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

C. H. BARGEMAN & C0., STATE PRINTERS.

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

PUBLISHED AT ANNUITY.
CHAPTER 235.
AN ACT to appropriate a sum of money to pay the claim of the Baltimore Publishing Company, printers and stationers of Baltimore city for printing 'cards of instruction to voters' for the use of the State.

SECTION 1.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the comptroller and the treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant upon the treasurer for the sum of two hundred and ninety dollars ($290.00) in favor of "the Baltimore Publishing Company," printers and stationers of Baltimore city, for printing "cards of instruction to voters," issued at the general election of eighteen hundred and ninety, and contracted for by the Secretary of State.

SEC. 2.
And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 30th, 1892.

CHAPTER 236.
AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments new section one hundred and thirty-seven of article thirty-three of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Elections," enacted by the act of 1890, chapter 538.

SECTION 1.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new section one hundred and thirty-seven of article thirty-three of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Elections," as enacted by the act of 1890, chapter 538,

Amended 1.

Second, as enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, title "Elections," as enacted by the act of 1890, chapter 538.

Amended 2.

Approved March 30th, 1892.
Laws of Maryland:

In the event that a party shall control the nominations of candidates for office for the primary election in any county by virtue of a convention of the party, in accordance with the provisions of the law, the party, in each such county, shall cause to be printed together in printed manner on the ballots for the primary election in said county, a statement or group of words stating the name of the candidate or candidates for office nominated by the party for which said printed statement or group of words is issued, together with the number of votes cast for each such candidate or group of candidates for office by the people of the county.
In word word to mark candidate name each the choice as under party regarded party regarded the more any and make for fold the so for does opposite candidate to the white mark.

whom by presiding officer of the law.

"For," "Against." Any name, or political emblem, shall be submitted to the voter as follows, that no part of the name, or emblem, shall be considered as crossed or eroded, so that the voter may be clearly decided to be marked; and the said mark shall be clearly marked, and the ink shall be clearly visible, and the voter may at any time, without difficulty, be clearly decided, as there is no difficulty, to have been marked.

The word "candidate" shall be distinctly printed on the ballot box, and the said word shall in no way be altered, erased, or changed in any manner in any way. Any difficulty in the marking of the ballot box, shall be considered as a difficulty in the marking of the ballot box, and the voter may at any time, without difficulty, be clearly decided to have been marked. Any such word shall be distinctly printed on the ballot box, and the said word shall in no way be altered, erased, or changed in any manner in any way.

The word "candidate" shall be distinctly printed on the ballot box, and the said word shall in no way be altered, erased, or changed in any manner in any way. Any difficulty in the marking of the ballot box, shall be considered as a difficulty in the marking of the ballot box, and the voter may at any time, without difficulty, be clearly decided to have been marked.
And be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 30th, 1892.

CHAPTER 238.

AN ACT to repeal sections 274 to 297 inclusive of article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws, title "City of Baltimore," sub-title "Primary Elections," and to enact in lieu thereof, the following sections to become sections 274 to 278 inclusive of said article under said sub-title of Primary Elections.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That sections 274 to 297 inclusive of article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws, title "City of Baltimore," sub-title "Primary Elections," be and the same are hereby repealed and the following sections be and hereby are enacted in lieu thereof, to become sections 274 to 278, of said article 4, of the Public Local Laws, under the sub-title "Primary Elections."
declining

1. The Secretary shall arrange for the publishing of the names of all nominees upon a list to be made public in the newspaper(s) at least (a) ten or (b) twenty days before the date of the election or the day preceding such date as may be necessary and practicable.

2. The Secretary shall request publication of the sample ballots.

3. The Secretary, or any person acting for him, shall have the authority to make any amendments or corrections in the names of any nominees, or in the printed ballots, in the event of any challenge to the accuracy of such names or ballots.

4. The Secretary shall take all necessary and practicable steps to arrange for the printing of two copies of the ballot in the largest number of newspapers published in the city or county of Baltimore, or in any county outside the city of Baltimore.

5. The Secretary shall have the authority to fill any vacancies which may occur in the list of nominees, or in the sample ballots, due to any challenge to the accuracy of such names or ballots.

6. The Secretary shall have the authority to certify the results of the election, and to certify the election of any candidate for any office, if he shall be satisfied that such candidate has obtained the necessary majority of votes.

7. The Secretary shall have the authority to issue any necessary and practicable orders or directions relating to the conduct of the election, and to take any necessary and practicable steps to prevent any violation of the laws relating to the conduct of elections.

8. The Secretary shall have the authority to make any necessary and practicable amendments or corrections in the printed ballots, in the event of any challenge to the accuracy of such ballots.

9. The Secretary shall have the authority to fill any vacancies which may occur in the list of nominees, or in the sample ballots, due to any challenge to the accuracy of such names or ballots.

10. The Secretary shall have the authority to certify the results of the election, and to certify the election of any candidate for any office, if he shall be satisfied that such candidate has obtained the necessary majority of votes.

11. The Secretary shall have the authority to issue any necessary and practicable orders or directions relating to the conduct of the election, and to take any necessary and practicable steps to prevent any violation of the laws relating to the conduct of elections.
In the event of a vacancy in any office or position in the State, the Lieutenant Governor shall be next in line to fill the vacancy. This appointment shall be for the term of the office or position vacated and shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

The Governor shall fill any other vacancy by appointment. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election, when the person so appointed shall be elected to serve the unexpired term. Any other elective officer, having a term exceeding four years, may also be appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, subject to the approval of the Governor.

The Governor may also appoint any person to fill a vacancy in any other elective or appointive office or position in the State, except in the case of a representative or senator representing a vacant district, when the vacancy shall be filled by a special election.

The Governor shall fill any vacancy in the State Senate or House of Delegates that occurs because of resignation or death of the incumbent. The Governor shall also fill any vacancy in the State Senate or House of Delegates resulting from an uncontested election or a contested election where the incumbent does not seek re-election. In the case of a vacancy in the House of Delegates, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment from the district in which the vacancy occurred. In the case of a vacancy in the State Senate, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment from the district in which the vacancy occurred, unless the district is comprised of more than one county, in which case the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment from the county in which the vacancy occurred. In the case of a vacancy in the State Senate, the Governor shall also fill any vacancy in the Senate resulting from a special election for an unexpired term.

In the case of a vacancy in the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, Treasurer, State Board of Education, State Board of Public Works, Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, Board of Trustees of the University of Maryland, State Board of Commissioners of County Officers, and any other office or position in the State elected by vote of the people, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment from the district or county in which the vacancy occurred.
LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND ENACTED

At the Session of the General Assembly Begun and Held in the City of Annapolis on the Fourteenth Day of January, 1998 and Ending on the Thirteenth Day of April, 1998

VOLUME III
CHAPTER 585
(Senate Bill 118)

AN ACT concerning

Election Code – General Revision

FOR the purpose of making substantive, technical, and stylistic changes to the Maryland Election Code; altering, repealing, or adding provisions relating to the operation of the electoral process in the State; altering certain powers and duties of election officials; altering the name, appointment, and terms of office of the State Administrative Board of Election Laws; altering the title, appointment, and term of the State Administrator of Election Laws; repealing certain obsolete provisions; requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt certain regulations; making it a felony to tamper with an electronic voting system; providing certain penalties; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the general revision of the Maryland Election Code.

BY repealing

Article 33 – Election Code
Section 1–1 through 22–2, 23–1 through 25–4, 27–1 through 27–14, and 32–1 through 32–6, and the various headings

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 33 – Election Code
Section 1–101 through 8–701, 8–710 through 12–204, and 16–101 through 16–1001, and the various headings

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 – Election Code
Section 22–3 through 22–10, 26–1 through 26–21, 30–1 through 30–4, and 31–1 through 31–10, and the various headings

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 1–1 through 22–2, 23–1 through 25–4, 27–1 through 27–14, and 32–1 through 32–6, and the various headings of Article 33 – Election Code of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

(B) RETURN FOR GOOD CAUSE.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE BOARD, THE FILING FEE PAID BY A CANDIDATE MAY BE RETURNED TO THE CANDIDATE FOR GOOD CAUSE.

5–403. DISPOSITION OF FILING FEES.

(A) GENERALLY.

FILING FEES PAID BY CANDIDATES UNDER § 5–401 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

(B) FEES RECEIVED BY LOCAL BOARD.

FILING FEES RECEIVED BY A LOCAL BOARD SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY.

(C) FEES RECEIVED BY STATE BOARD.

FILING FEES RECEIVED BY THE STATE BOARD SHALL BE DIVIDED AND DISTRIBUTED:

(1) WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE:

(I) $60 TO THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS; AND

(II) $10 EACH TO EACH OTHER LOCAL BOARD;

(2) WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES FOR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE IN A MULTICOUNTY DISTRICT, IN EQUAL AMOUNTS TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF EACH COUNTY THAT CONTAINS PART OF THE DISTRICT TO WHICH THE CANDIDACY RELATES; AND

(3) WITH RESPECT TO A CANDIDATE FOR A PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE IN A DISTRICT WHOLLY CONTAINED WITHIN ONE COUNTY, TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF THAT COUNTY.

SUBTITLE 5. WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY AFTER FILING BUT BEFORE PRIMARY ELECTION.

5–501. SCOPE.

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY MAY WITHDRAW THE CANDIDACY BY FILING A CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

5–502. TIME FOR WITHDRAWAL.

(A) GENERALLY.
SUBJECT TO § 5-402 OF THIS TITLE, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY MAY WITHDRAW THE CANDIDACY BY FILING A CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL ON THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DATE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-303 OF THIS TITLE.

(B) SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS MAY WITHDRAW THE CERTIFICATE ON THE PRESCRIBED FORM WITHIN 2 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DATE ESTABLISHED IN THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER § 5-303. PLACE AND MANNER OF WITHDRAWAL.

(A) GENERALLY.

EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL SHALL BE FILED WITH THE APPROPRIATE BOARD WITH WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL FILED THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY.

(B) SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER § 8-710 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SHALL ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY TO WITHDRAW THE CANDIDACY AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROCLAMATION.

5-504. EFFECT OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY.

(A) GENERALLY.

IF A CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL IS FILED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:

(1) THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY TO WHICH THE CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL RELATES IS VOID;

(2) THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO THE OFFICE TO WHICH THE CERTIFICATE RELATES UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL FILES A NEW CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT PRESCRIBED FOR FILING; AND

(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 5-402 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE FILING FEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY MAY NOT BE REFUNDED.

(B) NAME TO APPEAR ON BALLOT; EXCEPTION.

EXCEPT FOR THE OFFICES OF GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE NAME OF ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO FILES A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY AND DOES NOT WITHDRAW SHALL APPEAR ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT UNLESS, BY THE 10TH DAY PRIOR TO THE FILING DEADLINE SPECIFIED UNDER § 5-303 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE INDIVIDUAL'S DEATH OR DISQUALIFICATION IS KNOWN TO THE APPLICABLE BOARD WITH WHICH THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY WAS FILED.
SUBTITLE 6. QUALIFICATION FOR PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT.

5–601. CANDIDATES QUALIFYING.

THE NAME OF A CANDIDATE SHALL REMAIN ON THE BALLOT AND BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT A PRIMARY ELECTION IF:

(1) THE CANDIDATE HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 5–301 OF THIS TITLE AND HAS SATISFIED ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE RELATING TO THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS A CANDIDATE, PROVIDED THE CANDIDATE:

(I) HAS NOT WITHDRAWN THE CANDIDACY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE;

(II) HAS NOT DIED OR BECOME DISQUALIFIED, AND THAT FACT IS KNOWN TO THE APPLICABLE BOARD BY THE DEADLINE PRESCRIBED IN § 5–504(B) OF THIS TITLE;

(III) DOES NOT SEEK NOMINATION BY PETITION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF § 5–703 OF THIS TITLE; OR

(IV) IS NOT A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE; OR

(2) THE CANDIDATE HAS QUALIFIED TO HAVE THE CANDIDATE'S NAME SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS IN A PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SUBTITLE 7. NOMINATION.

5–701. IN GENERAL.

NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICES THAT ARE FILLED BY ELECTIONS GOVERNED BY THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE MADE:

(1) BY PARTY PRIMARY, FOR CANDIDATES OF A PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTY; OR

(2) BY PETITION FOR:

(I) CANDIDATES OF A POLITICAL PARTY THAT DOES NOT NOMINATE BY PRIMARY; OR

(II) CANDIDATES NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

5–702. NOMINATION BY PRIMARY ELECTION.

A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE OF A POLITICAL PARTY SHALL BE NOMINATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBTITLES 2 THROUGH 4 OF THIS TITLE UNLESS THE CANDIDATE IS:

(1) NOMINATED BY PETITION UNDER § 5–703 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

(2) A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE UNDER § 5–704 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO REVISE THE ELECTION CODE

DECEMBER 1997
Commission to Revise the Election Code

MEMBERSHIP

Marie M. Garber, Chairman

The Honorable John C. Arnick
The Honorable Clarence W. Blount *
Samuel Y. Botts, Esq.
The Honorable Michael J. Collins
The Honorable David R. Craig
The Honorable Joseph M. Getty
David G. Hartlove
Ronald B. Hickernell
John T. Willis, Secretary of State

* Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller appointed Senator Collins
to replace Senator Blount on the Commission on May 28, 1997

STAFF

Department of Legislative Services:

William G. Somerville, Primary Staff
Ross Goldstein
Theodore E. King, Jr.
Carol L. Swan
unless the statutory requirement is based on a compelling state interest. § 4-101

Present Code: There is no current provision addressing conflict. This provision addresses the Supreme Court decision of Eu v. San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee.

- **Retaining Status as a Political Party:** To retain its status as a recognized party, a party must run a candidate for the highest office on the statewide ballot (President or Governor), and that candidate must receive at least 3% of the vote cast for that office. § 4-103

Present Code: A political party must receive at least 3% of the total vote cast for all the statewide candidates in each election.

- **Composition of State Central Committees:** The composition of the state central committee of a political party is left to party rules. § 4-201

Present Code: The current law requires that the state central committee be composed of members of the local central committees.

**Title 5: Candidates**

- **Use of Nicknames:** The use of nicknames on the ballot will be permitted, subject to specified requirements and standards. § 5-301

Present Code: Nicknames on the ballot are currently prohibited.

- **Filing Fees:** Filing fees are eliminated for all presidential and vice-presidential candidates and county offices that pay a salary of $300 or less are eliminated. (The latter category is obsolete.) § 5-401

Present Code: Currently only presidential candidates nominated by petition pay the filing fee. Candidates designated by the Secretary of State pay no fee.

- **Vacancy before Primary Election:** The name of a candidate will not be removed from the ballot because of death or disqualification unless the vacancy is known at least 10 days before the filing deadline. § 5-504.

Present Code: Current law specifies this deadline as the 7th day prior to the filing deadline.

- **Nomination by Petition:** In year in which President is elected, a declaration of intent to seek nomination by petition must be filed by July 1. § 5-703(c)

Present Code: A declaration of intent is required of a petition candidate only when the election of the President is not on the ballot.

- **Nomination by Petition - Signature Requirement:** For statewide offices, the petition must contain signatures that equal not less than 1% of the total number of registered voters who are eligible to vote in the State. (The 3% requirement for local offices is retained.) § 5-703(D)

Present Code: All petitions (both statewide and non-statewide) must have signatures not less than 3% of the total number of registered voters eligible to vote for that office.
• **Filing of Declination of Nomination:** In a gubernatorial election and the Baltimore City municipal elections, a certificate of declination must be filed within 2 days after the results of the primary election are certified. § 5-801

Present Code: A certificate of declination must be filed within 10 days after primary election (when final results may not yet be known).

• **Filling Vacancy in Local Offices and Districts Entirely Within One County:** A vacancy in nomination shall be filled by the later of the 40th day before the general election or the 5th day following the creation of the vacancy. § 5-1004

Present Code: A vacancy must be filled at least 30 days before the general election.

• **Vacancy in Governor/Lt. Governor After Primary Election:** Governor/Lt. Governor unit remains on the ballot for the general election if a vacancy in the Governor position occurs less than 15 days before the general election and no replacement candidates are designated and qualified by the 10th day before the election. § 5-1005

Present Code: Unit stays on the ballot if a vacancy is created less than 20 days before general election.

• **Vacancy in Petition Candidates for Governor/Lt. Governor After Filing Deadline:** Governor/Lt. Governor unit remains on ballot for the general election if a vacancy in the Governor position is created less than 15 days before the general election. § 5-1101

Present Code: Unit stays on ballot if a vacancy is created less than 20 days before general election.

**Title 6: Petitions**

• **State Board will adopt regulations** to carry out provisions relating to petitions, including the form and content of petitions, procedures for circulation of petitions, and verification and counting of signatures. § 6-103

Present Code: Many of the details of the petition format and process are contained in statute.

• **Advance Determinations:** In advance of the petition filing deadline, the petition sponsor may submit to the appropriate election official the petition form for a determination of its sufficiency as to format. In making the determination, the election official may consult with the legal authority. § 6-202

Present Code: There is no provision in the current code concerning advance determinations.

• **Removal of signatures:** Signatures may be removed from the petition either by the signer if application is received by election authority prior to the submission of the signature or by the circulator if the signature does not satisfy legal requirements. § 6-203.

Present Code: No provision in current code.

• **Filing of Petitions:** If the State Constitution provides that a petition be filed with either the Secretary