

Question 1
Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 245 of the 2023 Legislative Session)
Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

The proposed amendment confirms an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end the individual's pregnancy, and provides the State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge, the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means. (Adding Article 48 to the Maryland Declaration of Rights)

For the Constitutional Amendment

Against the Constitutional Amendment

For the Constitutional Amendment Against the Constitutional Amendment
Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom
Chapter 245 of 2023 (House Bill 705)

This constitutional amendment would amend the Maryland Constitution to confirm an individual's right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end the individual's pregnancy. Additionally, the State would be prohibited from denying or burdening the right to reproductive freedom unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Under current Maryland law, the State is prohibited from interfering with a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy prior to viability or at any point in the pregnancy if the procedure is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman or the fetus is affected by genetic defect or serious deformity or abnormality. The Maryland Department of Health may adopt regulations consistent with established medical practice if they are necessary and the least intrusive method to protect the life and health of the woman.

Additionally, current Maryland law prohibits a person from being required to perform, participate in, or make referrals for a medical procedure that results in artificial insemination, sterilization, or termination of pregnancy. Similar protections are also provided to licensed hospitals, hospital directors, and hospital governing boards.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution generally protected a right to obtain an abortion. However, in a subsequent ruling in 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned this prior ruling. As a result, the right to obtain an abortion is no longer protected under the U.S. Constitution and the regulation of abortion is largely left to individual states.

Question A

Amendment to the Harford County Charter

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – TERM OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

To Amend the Harford County Charter to provide that no person elected or appointed as a Council member shall be eligible for succession in such office after serving three consecutive four year terms except that a member who has served three consecutive terms as a Council member is eligible to be elected or appointed as Council President but is not eligible for succession in such office after serving three consecutive four year terms.

- For the Charter Amendment
- Against the Charter Amendment

Harford County Bill No. 23-028

Amendment to Harford County Charter: Legislative Branch – Term of Council Members

This Amendment places term limits on the Council Members elected to serve on the Harford County Council. No Member is permitted to serve more than 3 consecutive, 4-year terms. However, a Council Member who has represented Districts A, B, C, D, E, or F for 3 consecutive, 4-year terms, is eligible to be elected or appointed, thereafter, as the Council President for a maximum of 3 consecutive 4-year terms. If approved by the voters, this amendment will not be applicable until after the General Election in November, 2026 and the terms currently being served by the Council Members and Council President are not included in calculating the limitation on the number a terms a Council Member may serve.