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Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kuc, Gary
Subject: CR23-2026 Charter Amendment – Gender Neutrality - Expand Scope to Make Other Technical Corrections

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Dear Councilmembers,

CR23-2026 is essentially a resolution making technical amendments to the Howard County Charter. If the voters of Howard County are to vote on making technical amendments, then this resolution should be expanded to include changing Charter references from the "Court of Appeals" to the "Supreme Court" and correcting outdated references to "Article 25A." Article 25A was repealed in 2013 as part of the recodification of the State Code:

Article 25A. Chartered Counties of Maryland (Repealed)

Repealed by Acts 2013, ch. 119, § 1, effective October 1, 2013.

It is really past time to remove the remaining outdated State Code references from the Charter and County Code; it is extremely difficult for the public to find the current statute with the outdated citations.

A search of Municode finds the following five issues:

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[Section 501. - The County Board of Appeals.](#)

1. [Code of Ordinances](#)
2. [HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER](#)

3. [ARTICLE V. - BOARD OF APPEALS](#)

originally or on appeal or review, of such matters as are or may be set forth in [Article 25A, Section 5\(u\)](#) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, excluding those matters affecting the

Section 202. - The County Council.[]

[Section 202. - The County Council.](#)

1. [Code of Ordinances](#)

2. [HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER](#)

3. [ARTICLE II. - THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH](#)

Council's compensation and allowances in accordance with the provisions of [Article 25A Subsection 5\(AA\)](#) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

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[Section 502. - Board of Appeals hearing examiner.](#)

1. [Code of Ordinances](#)

2. [HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER](#)

3. [ARTICLE V. - BOARD OF APPEALS](#)

section. An examiner shall be a member in good standing of the Bar of the Maryland [Court of Appeals](#) and at the time of appointment shall have knowledge of administrative and zoning

Section 405. - The Office of Law.[]

[Section 405. - The Office of Law.](#)

1. [Code of Ordinances](#)

2. [HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER](#)

3. [ARTICLE IV. - OFFICES, DEPARTMENTS, AND BOARDS](#)

Solicitor, who shall be a member in good standing of the Bar of the Maryland [Court of Appeals](#) for five years and shall have been actively engaged in the general practice of

Section 202. - The County Council.[]

[Section 202. - The County Council.](#)

1. [Code of Ordinances](#)

2. [HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER](#)

3. [ARTICLE II. - THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH](#)

established under the "change and mistake" principle set out by the Maryland **Court of Appeals**, is declared to be a legislative act and may be passed only by the Howard County

The CR23 Charter question should be expanded rather than having a separate question on these technical questions because CR23 and CR24 already involve amendments to "Section 501 - The County Board of Appeals." Having three charter amendments involving the Board of Appeals, especially with the politics and criticism that the Board of Appeals has engendered over the past year, would be too much of a burden on the voters to have a clear understanding of which amendment is which as it pertains to the Board of Appeals.

If other similar technical issues are identified, they should be included in the resolution as well.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz