

*Howard County, Maryland  
Howard County Office of Law  
3450 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(410) 313-2100*

August 2, 2024

**VIA E-MAIL ONLY (Natasha.Walker@maryland.gov)**

Maryland State Board of Elections  
c/o Natasha Walker  
151 West Street Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Certification of Local Ballot Question – Howard County, Maryland

Dear Ms. Walker:

In accordance with Section 7-103 of the Election Law Article and your memorandum dated July 1, 2024, this letter certifies to the State Board of Elections one local ballot question to be placed on the ballot for Howard County, Maryland, for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The question concerns a Charter amendment proposed by County Council Resolution No. 107-2024 (adopted July 29, 2024), pursuant to Section 1001 of the Howard County Charter. The certified question is:

**Question A  
Charter Amendment  
Office of Inspector General**

Amending the County Charter to create an independent Office of Inspector General to provide increased accountability and oversight of county government and county funded organizations. The Inspector General would investigate fraud, waste and abuse, and identify ways to promote efficiency, accountability, compliance and integrity. The office would do its work without interference from the County Executive and County Council. The office could hire legal, financial and technical advisors as needed. The Executive's proposed budget would have to include the funding requested by the Inspector General, and the Executive could not reorganize the office. The County Council would pass a law to specify the details of the office, including the appointment, removal and oversight of the Inspector General. The law may also provide for the use of a Council appointed board.

**For the Charter Amendment  
Against the Charter Amendment**

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Thank you for your assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF LAW



Gary W. Kuc  
County Solicitor

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Enc. (Question in Word electronic format)

Cc: Guy C. Mickley, Director, Howard County Board of Elections (*Via Electronic-Mail Only*  
*Guy.Mickley@maryland.gov*)

Kristen B. Perry, Deputy County Solicitor

Amanda Mihill, Senior Assistant County Solicitor

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