



FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS SPECIAL EDITION

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3 of 4 Publications as Required by the Annotated Code of Maryland

At a special legislation session on January 19, 2007, the Forest Heights Town Council passed eight amendments to the Town Charter in accordance with procedures required by Article 23A of the Maryland State Code. Below is a summary of those amendments. Article 23A also provides that if 20% of the Town's registered voters submit a valid petition within 40 days of the passage of the resolutions, the resolutions will not go into effect until voted on in a referendum either at the next scheduled election (March 14, 2007) or at a special election called by the Town Council. If such valid petition is not received by February 28, 2007, the resolutions as summarized below will go into effect on March 10, 2007.

Proposed Charter Amendment 21 - This amendment to Town Charter Section 33-15 will change the term of office of the Forest Heights Mayor, by terminating the term of the current Mayor, Myles Spires, on March 10, 2007, and installing the Council President as Acting Mayor until the next scheduled election is held on March 14, 2007.

Proposed Charter Amendment 22 - This Town Charter amendment will add a recall provision to the Town Charter in which 20 % of the Town's registered voters can request a special election at which the Mayor could be removed from office. Likewise, 20 % of a Ward's registered voters could request a special election to recall a Councilman.

Proposed Charter Amendment 23 - This amendment inserts a subsection to Town Charter Section 33-18 defining the powers and duties of the Mayor. This insertion defines the Mayor as the Town's Chief Executive Officer, restoring wording that existed in the Charter prior to November 16, 2005.

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Proposed Charter Amendment 24 - This amendment repeals a subsection to Town Charter Section 33-18 that was added on February 16, 2006, which defined the role of the Mayor as the Town's Chief Executive Officer and provided specific instructions regarding the Mayor's consultations with the Council after a budget was approved.

Proposed Charter Amendment 25 - This Town Charter amendment establishes consistency between the change to Charter section 33-15 as provided for in Charter amendment 21 above, and the two year term for the Mayor provided for in Charter Section 33-32.

Proposed Charter Amendment 25 - This amendment to Town Charter Section 33-32 provides that the Mayor's term of office will revert to two years beginning with the election of March 2007.

Proposed Charter Amendment 26 - This amendment to Town Charter Section 33-33 will change the term of office of the Forest Heights Councilmen from the current four years to a term of two years.

Proposed Charter Amendment 27 - This Town Charter amendment will change the term of Councilmen from the current term of four years to a term of two years, and establishes a phase-in of sitting Councilmen's terms to the new two year terms.

Proposed Charter Amendment 28 - This amendment to Charter Section 33-31 requires candidates for elective office to submit their nominations, as well as a statement of candidacy, by the first Wednesday of February to conform to the change in election date from May to March.

Petition Amendments – In addition to the Council initiated amendments summarized above, the ballot for the March 14, 2007 election will contain questions requesting citizen approval of eight additional changes to the Town Charter as contained in a petition containing signatures more than 20 percent of the Town's registered voters. The ballot will also contain advisory questions for possible additional Council initiated Charter amendments.

The full text of all the resolutions containing the proposed amendments can be found on the Bulletin Board at the Forest Heights Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.



Correction

A flier distributed last week stated that nominations were to be submitted by February 1, 2007. That flier was in error as the correct date is the first Wednesday in February, which is February 7, 2007. If you have already filed a nomination certificate for the March 8 election you do not have to file again.

To be placed on the ballot for the March 8, 2007 Town elections, a nomination certificate and a brief statement of candidacy for the office of Mayor of Forest Heights, or for the office of Councilman in your Ward, must be submitted to the Town Clerk by close of business on Wednesday, February 7, 2007.

Persons seeking the office of Council member must have resided in the Ward of the Town they want represent for at least one year immediately preceding the election, must be qualified voters of the Town, and must maintain a permanent residence in the Town during their term of office (*Charter Section 33-4*). Persons seeking the office of Mayor must have resided in Forest Heights at least one year immediately preceding the election, must be qualified voters of the Town, and must maintain a permanent residence in the Town during their term of office (*Section 33-16*).

Printed on the other side of this Flier is the certificate of nomination which must be completed and filed with the Town Clerk. Also, candidates are invited to submit a statement regarding their candidacy that will be published in the February edition of the Forest Heights News.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonita Anderson, Town Clerk, on (301) 839-1030.

Town of Forest Heights
5508 Arapahoe Drive,
Forest Heights, MD 20745

CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION
Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

(Please Print)

✧ NAME: _____

✧ ADDRESS: _____

✧ WARD: _____ DATE: _____

✧ FILING FOR THE OFFICE OF: _____

Signature _____

Date of Receipt by Town Clerk

Please do not write below this line

Qualified

Not qualified because

Board of Elections