

# HOUSE BILL 52

G1, F1  
HB 373/24 – W&M

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
(PRE-FILED)

5lr1031

---

By: **Delegate Vogel**

Requested: October 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voting Age – Board of Education Elections**  
3 **(Your School, Your Voice Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable enactment the  
5 authority of a county to lower the age at which an individual may vote in an election  
6 for members of an elected county board of education; authorizing, if authorized by  
7 the county in which the individual is registered to vote, an individual under a certain  
8 age to vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education;  
9 authorizing a county to enact a local law that allows an individual who is at least a  
10 certain age to vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education;  
11 and generally relating to the age at which an individual may vote in board of  
12 education elections.

13 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
14 Article I – Elective Franchise  
15 Section 1

16 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution  
17 Article I – Elective Franchise  
18 Section 1A

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Election Law  
21 Section 3–102  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

24 BY adding to  
25 Article – Election Law  
26 Section 3–102.1

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
4 (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That it be  
5 proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

6 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

7 1.

8 All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in **SECTION 1A**, Section 2A, or  
9 Section 3 of this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards,  
10 who is a resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next preceding  
11 the election, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which the citizen  
12 resides at all elections to be held in this State. [A person] **AN INDIVIDUAL** once entitled to  
13 vote in any election district, shall be entitled to vote there until the [person] **INDIVIDUAL**  
14 shall have acquired a residence in another election district or ward in this State.

15 **1A.**

16 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO PROVIDE BY SUITABLE**  
17 **ENACTMENT THE AUTHORITY OF A COUNTY TO LOWER THE AGE AT WHICH AN**  
18 **INDIVIDUAL MAY VOTE IN AN ELECTION FOR THE MEMBERS OF AN ELECTED COUNTY**  
19 **BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
21 as follows:

22 **Article – Election Law**

23 3–102.

24 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may  
25 become registered to vote if the individual:

26 (i) is a citizen of the United States;

27 (ii) is at least 16 years old;

28 (iii) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to  
29 register; and

30 (iv) registers pursuant to this title.

1           (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, an individual  
2 under the age of 18 years:

3           (i) may vote in a primary election in which candidates are  
4 nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least  
5 18 years old; [and]

6           (ii) **IF AUTHORIZED UNDER § 3-102.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY THE**  
7 **COUNTY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS REGISTERED TO VOTE, MAY VOTE IN AN**  
8 **ELECTION FOR MEMBERS OF AN ELECTED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND**

9           (iii) may not vote in any other election.

10          (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

11           (1) has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered  
12 sentence of imprisonment for the conviction;

13           (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent  
14 jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual  
15 cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting  
16 process; or

17           (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

18 **3-102.1.**

19           **A COUNTY MAY ENACT A LOCAL LAW THAT ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT**  
20 **LEAST 16 YEARS OLD TO VOTE IN AN ELECTION FOR MEMBERS OF AN ELECTED**  
21 **COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

22           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
23 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this  
24 Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland  
25 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

26           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the  
27 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified  
28 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or  
29 rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general  
30 election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on  
31 each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and  
32 “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the  
33 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed  
34 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further  
35 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

1           SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act is  
2 contingent on the passage of Section 1 of this Act, a constitutional amendment, and its  
3 ratification by the voters of the State.

4           SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
5 Section 5 of this Act, Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the proclamation of the  
6 Governor that the constitutional amendment, having received a majority of the votes cast  
7 at the general election, has been adopted by the people of Maryland.