

**Rules Governing the Conduct of the Referendum to Combine
The Catoctin Soil Conservation District with The Frederick Soil Conservation
District**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Agric, § 8-401(c), the State Soil Conservation Committee (“SSCC”) adopts these rules (“Rules”) to govern the conduct of a referendum to combine the Catoctin Soil Conservation District (“CSCD”) with the Frederick Soil Conservation District (“FSCD”). The referendum is being held to address CSCD’s and FSCD’s May 24, 2023 petitions to the SSCC to join both districts. If both districts are combined, the newly formed district shall be titled: “Frederick County Soil Conservation District.”

1. Location of Referendum.

Referendum voting shall occur at the CSCD/FSCD headquarters located at 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230, Frederick, Maryland 21702.

2. Date of Referendum.

The referendum shall be held on the following dates: July 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of 2023. For each of these dates, on-site voting shall start at 8:00 a.m. and shall end at 6 p.m.

3. Notice of Referendum.

To satisfy the notice requirements of Md. Code Ann., Agric, § 8-401(c), the SSCC shall twice publish in the Frederick News Post and the Delmarva Farmer a notice substantially similar to the notice attached as Exhibit A to these Rules. The same notice shall be published in a conspicuous place at the FSCD/CSCD headquarters located at 92

Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230 Frederick, Maryland 21702. All notices shall be published not later than fourteen days before the first voting day of the referendum.

4. Form of Ballot.

The form of the ballot used by the SSCC for the referendum shall be substantially similar to the form ballot attached as Exhibit B to these Rules. The ballot shall be available on the SSCC website and the FSCD/CSCD website.

5. Methods for Casting Ballots.

Referendum ballots may be cast:

- a) in person at 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230, Frederick, Maryland 21702 during dates and times of the referendum as provided in Paragraph 2 of these Rules; or
- b) by regular mail, delivered to Maryland Department of Agriculture, ATTN: State Soil Conservation Committee, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 306, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, so long as the ballot is post-marked on any date of the referendum dates as provided in Paragraph 2 of these Rules.

6. Eligibility to Vote on Referendum.

Only land-occupiers of Frederick County may vote in the referendum. The term “land-occupier” means any person, over the age of eighteen, who owns or leases real property in Frederick County or resides in Frederick County.

Any eligible voter may vote only once in the referendum. The SSCC shall log the name and address of each referendum voter in writing to ensure no person votes more than once.

7. Results of Referendum.

The SSCC shall publish the results of the referendum within thirty days of the last scheduled date of the referendum. The results shall be published in a conspicuous place at the FSCD/CSCD headquarters located at 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230, Frederick, Maryland 21702.

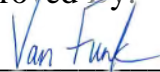
8. Minimum Number of Votes to Determine Administrative Feasibility.

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Agric, § 8-401(e), for the SSCC to determine if combining the FSCD and CSCD is administratively feasible, at least 50 referendum votes shall be cast; the same number required to petition the SSCC to initiate this referendum.

9. Validation of Referendum Process.

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Agric, § 8-401(d), no informality in the conduct of the referendum or in any matter relating to it invalidates the referendum or its results, if notice has been given substantially in accordance with Agric, § 8-401(c) and the referendum has been fairly conducted.

Approved By:



Van Funk

Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee

Dated: June 2, 2023