

Election Code Rewrite Worksession June 8, 2026

Board of Supervisor of Elections
Recommendations for Chapter 8 Rewrite





Outline

- Introduction
- Timeline
- BSE Recommended Actions
- BSE Recommendations for the 2027 Elections
 - Recommendations for the Mayor and Council
 - Recommended Amendments to Chapter 8
 - Recommendations for the BSE and City Staff
- Closing statements

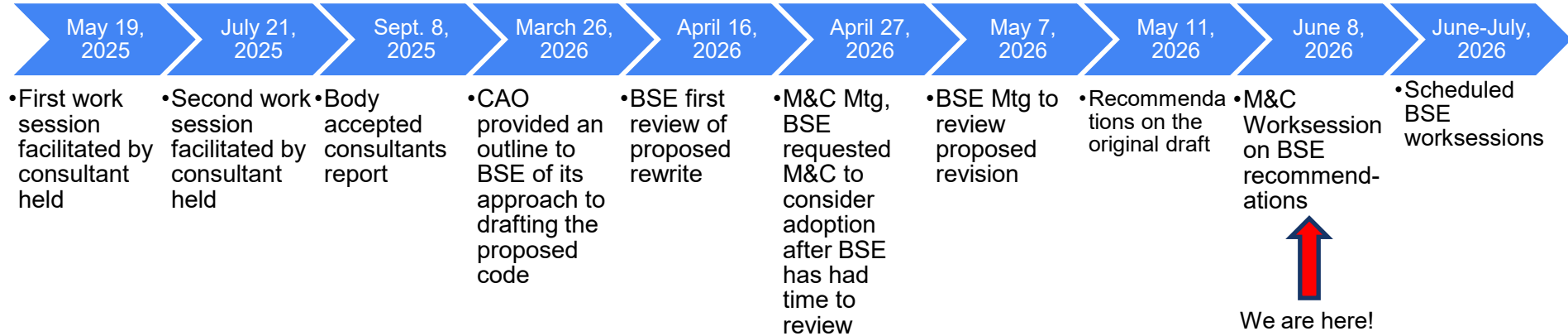


Introduction

Staff recommend the Mayor and Council provide direction on the recommendations of the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) in order to move forward with rewriting the Election Code and ensuring implementation prior to the November 2027 Municipal election

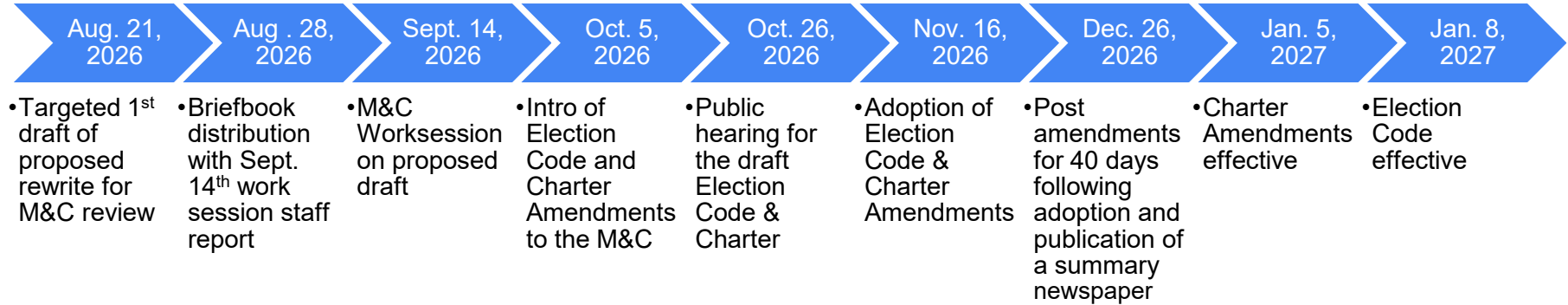


Timeline & Conclusion





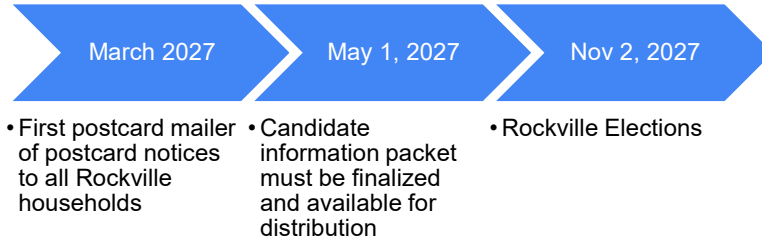
Timeline & Conclusion





Timeline & Conclusion

Election 2027 - go LIVE!





BSE Recommendations for the 2027 Election

The BSE recommends the following to the Mayor and Council:

- Use VBM to conduct the 2027 election
- Establish a third vote center on the east side of Rockville Pike
- Provide a stipend to BSE members who serve the year of the election:
\$2,500 for Boardmembers and \$3,500 for the Chair



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|---------|--|
| 8-1 | Expand definition of "campaign material" to include robocalls, pre-recorded messages, and communications with audio components |
| 8-1 | Insert definition of "committee" |
| 8-1 | Delete definition of "absentee ballot" |
| 8-1 | Insert definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure" with exceptions for those items not deemed reportable (e.g., volunteer activity, candidate personal expenses) |



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|---------|---|
| 8-6(a) | Close registration to vote in City elections to 60, rather than 45, days before the election |
| 8-41(a) | Substitute the provision specifying location of vote centers and drop boxes a provision stating that vote centers will be established and drop boxes placed at locations recommended by the BSE and approved by the M&C |
| 8-41(c) | Reduce the number of postcard mailers from 4 to 3 |
| 8-42(a) | Delete provisions on absentee voting |



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|------------|---|
| 8-44(a)(1) | Eliminate Certification of Person Assisting Voter |
| 8-71(a)(1) | Clarity when one becomes a "candidate" |
| 8-72 | Require slates to disband after each election cycle |



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|------------|---|
| 8-73 | Adopt provisions on independent expenditures that would: 1) require persons to register (City Clerk's Office) within 48 hours of making independent expenditures of at least \$X; 2) file a report within 48 hours of making independent expenditures of at least \$2X; 3) disclose in those reports the identities of their largest contributors; and 4) name a Rockville resident as an agent for service of process. |
| 8-74(b) | Eliminate the requirement of maintaining a petty cash ledger |
| 8-81(a)(1) | Require committees to file their first pre-election campaign finance reports 45, rather than 30, days before the election |
| 8-81(a)(4) | Change the due date for annual campaign finance reports from November 8 to January 15 or 31 |



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|---------|--|
| 8-83(a) | Increase the maximum late fee for filing campaign finance reports from the current maximum of \$360 |
| 8-83(c) | Create a more streamlined and rational procedure for imposing and collecting late fees from those that do not file timely campaign finance reports |
| 8-101 | Require text messages to offer recipients choice of opting out of receiving future political messages |



Recommended Amendments for Chapter 8

| Section | Change |
|---------|--|
| New | <p>Add a new section describing the authority of the Board of Supervisors of Elections, including the authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) conduct municipal elections;2) determine adequacy of nominating petitions and certify the candidacy of nominees;3) issue forms for reporting and other purposes;4) review and determine adequacy of campaign finance reports;5) supervise canvassing of ballots;6) investigate violations of Chapter 8 of the City Code;7) issue municipal infraction citations to those who violate Chapter 8 of the City Code; and8) certify election results. |
| New | <p>Add a provision making it a crime to threaten an election official or an election worker, or an immediate family member of an election official or election worker, because of that official's or worker's role in administering the election process.</p> |



BSE Recommendations for the 2027 Election

The BSE recommends the following to the BSE & City Staff:

- Prepare a handbook for prospective candidates providing guidance and describing common pitfalls
- Electronic Signatures for Nominating Petition Forms
- Work with IT Department to ensure that properties have not been improperly excluded from the database of Rockville voters
- Make necessary arrangements with the USPS to retrieve ballots postmarked on or before Election Day
- Provide vendor with mailing addresses of Rockville voters who have opted for web delivery in state and federal elections
- Reach out to residents in newly added properties and communities



Closing Statement

Thank you to Mayor and Council for taking the time to provide direction on the recommendations of the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) in order to move forward with revising the rewrite of the Election Code and ensuring implementation prior to the November 2027 Municipal election.

Your direction will provide guidance for the staff and BSE to hold worksessions and provide a draft of the proposed rewrite on August 21 for Mayor and Council review.