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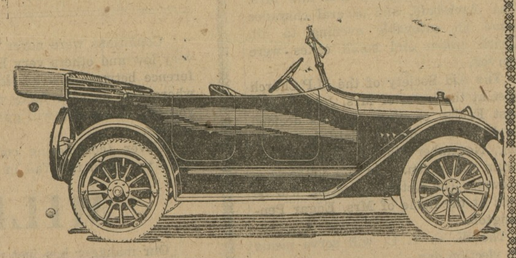

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FIVE AMENDMENTS WILL BE VOTED ON NEXT NOVEMBER

Increased Representation for Baltimore, Six Legislative Districts For The City And "Femininization" Of The State Laws Provided.

Besides the names of the various candidates for offices to be filled in the election next November, five proposed amendments to the State Constitution will be printed on the ballots in a referendum. In their legislative and legal verbiage, these undoubtedly will sound complicated to some persons, but they may be summarized in the following fashion:

1—To increase the number of Legislative districts in Baltimore city from four to six.

2—To increase the representation of Baltimore city on the General Assembly to 36 Delegates and 6 Senators instead of 24 and 4.

3—Prescribing the salary of the State Comptroller and the terms of the Comptroller and Treasurer.

4—Providing that all State and county officers shall hold office for four years, except judges of the Circuit Courts, the member of the Court of Appeals from Baltimore city and the judges of the Baltimore City Supreme Bench.

5—To provide that "words or phrases used in creating public offices and positions shall be construed to include the feminine gender."

For Six Districts

Under the first proposed amendment the city shall be divided into six Legislative districts "as near as may be of equal population and of contiguous territory," and each district shall be entitled to one Senator.

The second measure establishes the maximum representation of any county at six Delegates—besides the Senator—and gives each Legislative district of Baltimore a representation equal to that of the largest county representation.

At present the Comptroller and Treasurer are selected every two years; by the proposed amendment each would serve for four years, each to receice a salary of $2,500, but neither to receive any fees.

What It Says.

First specifying that the terms of State and county officeholders shall be for four years, with certain exceptions, and that these elections shall be held in November, 1926, and in every fourth year thereafter, the measure reads:

Members of the House of Delegates and all other State and county officers elected in 1923 for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at two years, shall hold office for terms of three years; the Governor, Attorney General, members of the State Senate and all other State and county officers elected in 1923 for terms of three years; Registers of Wills, Clerks of Court and all other State and county officers elected in 1923 for six years, shall hold office for terms of three years; and all such State and county offices elected thereafter shall hold office for terms of four years.

All officers to be appointed by the Governor under existing provisions of law in 1924 for terms of two years, shall hold office for terms of three years; all officers so appointed for terms of four years shall hold office for terms of three years; all officers so appointed for six years shall hold office for terms of five years, and thereafter appointments by the Governor shall be for the terms hereafter fixed by law, unless otherwise duly changed by law.

All officers appointed by County Commissioners after the election to be held in 1923, for terms of office of two, four or six years, shall hold offices for terms of three years, and thereafter appointment by the County Commissioners shall be for terms of four years, unless otherwise duly changed by law.

The terms of all State and county officers heretofore elected, and whose successors would not be elected until 1925, shall be increased by one year, and their successors shall be elected for the regular term at the election to be held in 1926. The terms of all State and county officers, hereafter elected, and whose successors would not be elected until 1927, shall remain unchanged; their successors shall be elected for a term of three years at the elections to be held in 1926, but shall not take office until the exuriation of the full term for which their predecessors have been elected, and their successors shall be elected for the regular term at the election to be held in 1930. Nothing herein shall affect the terms of any judge of the Circuit Court of the several circuits, the member of the Court of Appeals from Baltimore city or any member of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City; if the term of any such judge shall expire in a year in which no election for members of the General Assembly is held, the Governor shall appoint a person duly qualified to fill the office, who shall hold it until the next general election for members of the General Assembly, when a successor shall be elected for the term elsewhere provided.

The terms of all State and county officers heretofore appointed for terms which will not expire until during the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 shall be reduced by one year, and their successors shall be appointed for the terms provided for the terms now provided by law in the years 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927, respectively. In the event that the term of any officer appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate shall expire in the year 1925 or 1926, the Governor shall have power to appoint a successor, who shall serve for the full term subject to confirmation by the Senate at the regular session to be held under this Article in the year 1927.

Assembly Sessions.

The General Assembly shall meet on the first Wednesday of January, 1924, for a regular session, and shall not meet again for a regular session until the first Wednesday of January, 1927, and the General Assembly shall meet on the same day in every second year thereafter and at no other time, unless convened by proclamation of the Governor.

The term of the Treasurer elected by the General Assembly at the regular session of 1924 shall be three years. Thereafter the term shall be the same as elsewhere provided.

The terms of the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Baltimore City and of the several counties shall commence on the first Monday of June next ensuing their appointment.

These are the main provisions of this proposed amendment.

Finally, comes the measure to propose an amendment to Section 10 of Article XV, of the Constitution of the State, title "Miscellaneous," providing that words or phases used in creating public offices and positions shall be construed to include the feminine gender.

Such are the proposed Constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot in the general election.

A Local Bond Issue.

In addition to the amendments mentioned above Kent County voters will vote upon the question of a $100,000 Bond Issue to be used for permanently constructing and improving Kent County roads.

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