
Consolidating Elections in the Commonwealth

History, Law, and Timing

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Historical Context





Constitutional Considerations

The Constitution Provides for Terms of Office

All terms are for an even number
of years

Art IV, Sec 2 “The Senate...shall be
elected quadrennially...on the first
Monday in November.”

Art. V, Sec 1 “[The Governor] shall
hold office for a term commencing...
on the Saturday after the second
Wednesday in January... and ending
in the forth year thereafter...”

Terms to be Extended or Shortened

1. Legislative Offices

Art IV. Sec. 3 ““The House... shall be elected biennially...”

Art IV. Sec. 2 “The Senate... shall be elected quadrennially...”

2. Executive Offices

Art. V Sec. 1 “[The Governor] shall hold office for a term commencing upon... the Saturday after the second Wednesday in January, next succeeding his election, and ending in the fourth year thereafter...”

Art V. Sec. 13 “A Lieutenant Governor shall be elected at the same time and for the same term as the Governor...”

Art V. Sec. 14 “An Attorney General shall be elected... at the same time and for the same term as the Governor...”

3. Local Constitutional Offices

Art. VII. Sec. 4 “There shall be... of each county and city a treasurer, a sheriff, an attorney for the Commonwealth, [and a] clerk of the court Such officers shall ... hold their respective offices for the term of four years, except that the clerk shall hold office for eight years.

Additional Amendment Options

1. Clean-up Amendments

Art V. Sec. 2 “The Governor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the Commonwealth ~~at the time and place of choosing members of the General Assembly on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November.~~”

Art. VII Sec. 5 “~~Unless otherwise provided by law, the governing body of each city or town shall be elected on the second Tuesday in June and take office on the first day of the following September. Unless otherwise provided by law, the~~ The governing body of each county shall be elected on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November and take office on the first day of the following January.”

2. Require even year elections

E.g. Art IV, Sec 2 “The Senate...shall be elected quadrennially...on the first Monday in November of an even numbered year.”

Methods of Amendment

Convention vs. Amendment

Art. XII Sec. 2. Const. Convention

- One and done
- Requires two-thirds vote
- Less control

Art. XII Sec. 1. Amendment*

- Two year process
- Simple majority
- More control

* significantly impacted by even year only elections.

Statutory and Charter Changes

Required Statutory Changes

1. One-Time Term Extension/Shortening

2. Amend References to Years of Elections

- § 24.2-214 “The members of the Senate of Virginia shall be elected at the general election in November ~~1995~~ preceding the expiration of the term of the incumbent member, and every four years thereafter...”

- § 10.1-523 “Beginning in the year ~~2003~~ 2030, elections shall be held only at the November general election in ~~2003~~ 2030 and at the November general election in each fourth year thereafter....”

3. Revise County Manager Plan of Gov Elections.

- § 15.2-705 **Board of Supervisors**

- § 22.1-47.3 **School Board**

That's it!

Optional Statutory Changes

Across Title 24.2 (and others):

- eliminate references to May elections, associated March primaries, elections at odd year intervals and in “odd-numbered” years.
- Specify November general elections “in even numbered years.”

Chapter 1: Relax yearly administrative requirements and revise Board terms.

Chapter 2: Remove § 24.2-222.1

Chapter 4: Relax yearly registration and list maintenance requirements

Chapter 5: Relax party chairman requirements and change adoption of primary requirement to even years.

Charter Changes

1. Override by General Law

2. Individual Charter Amendments

- Many already on even year schedules
 - Change references to specific years
 - Adjust terms for any yearly staggered terms.
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A Timeline

Enacting the Consolidation Plan

1st Election Under the Plan

Leg: Delegates (1 yr term)
Exec: Governor (3 yr terms)
Lt. Governor
Atty. General

Local A: Sheriff (3 yr terms)
Com. Attorney
Treasurer
Comm. of Revenue
Councils/Boards

Subcommittee recommends
consolidation, proposed
Constitutional Amendments

Election of General
Assembly members

Constitutional
Amendment (2nd
Reference) Passes

2027

2029

2026

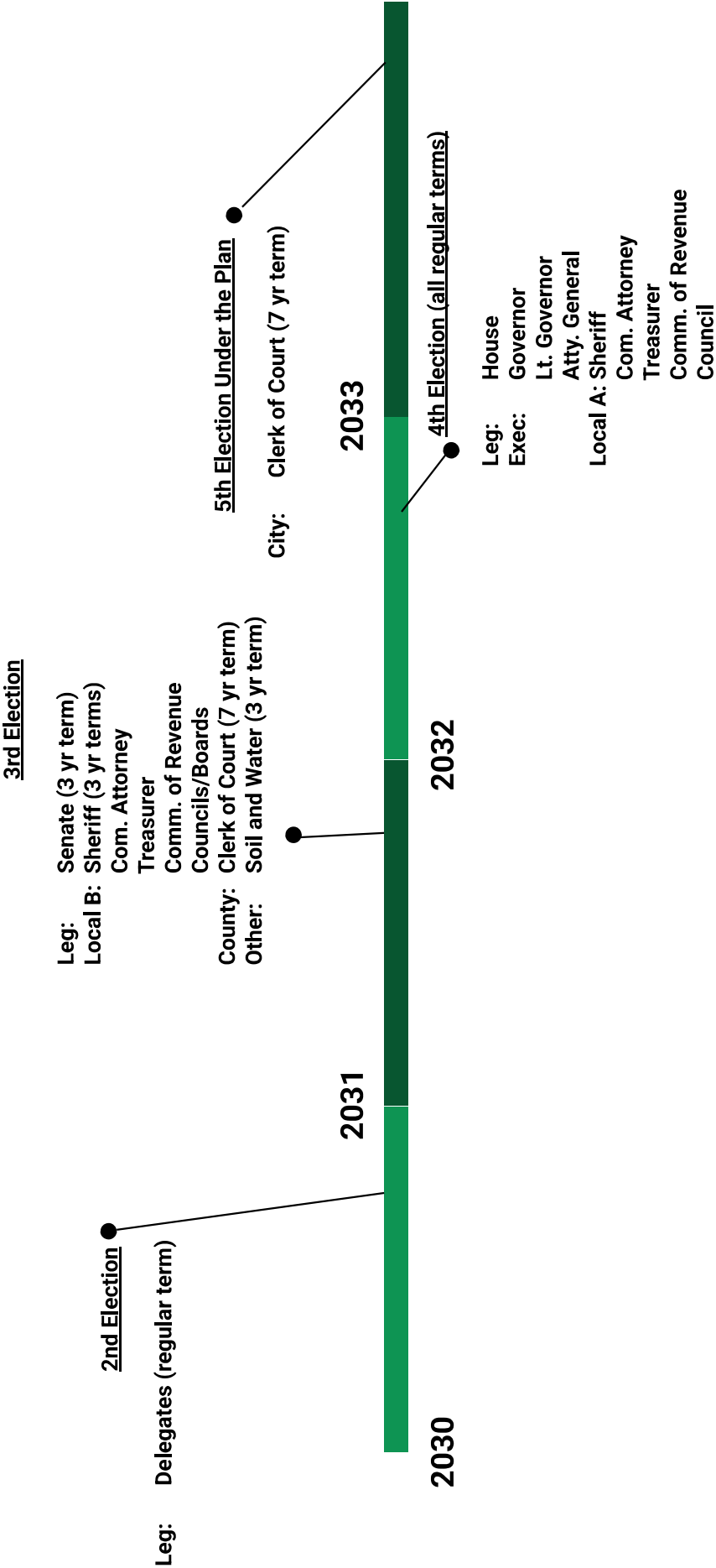
2028

Constitutional
Amendment (1st
Reference)
Passes

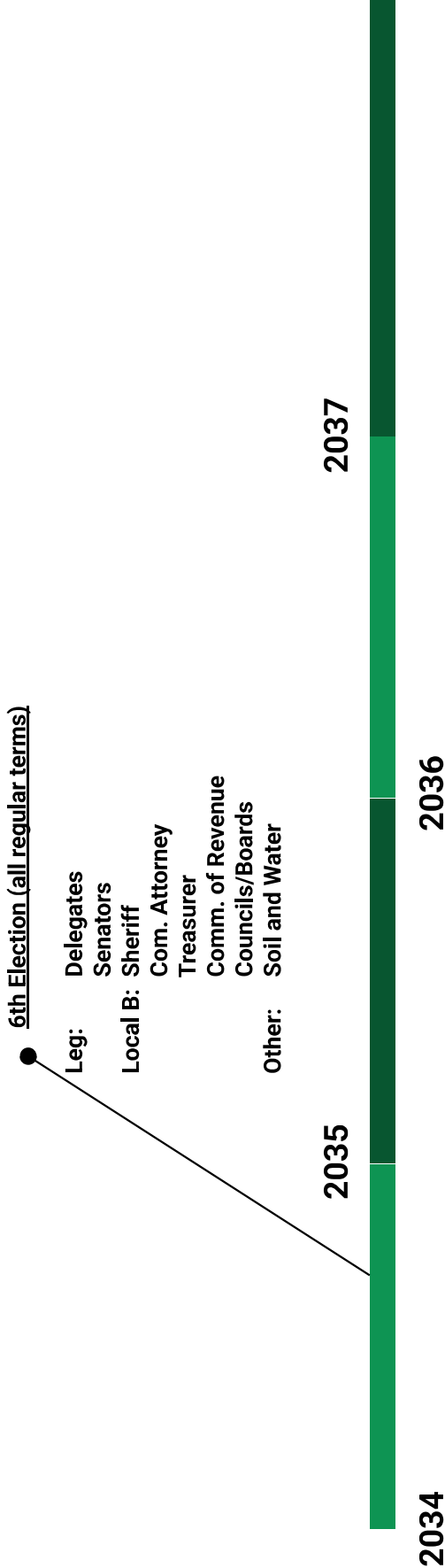
Constitutional
Amendment Ratified



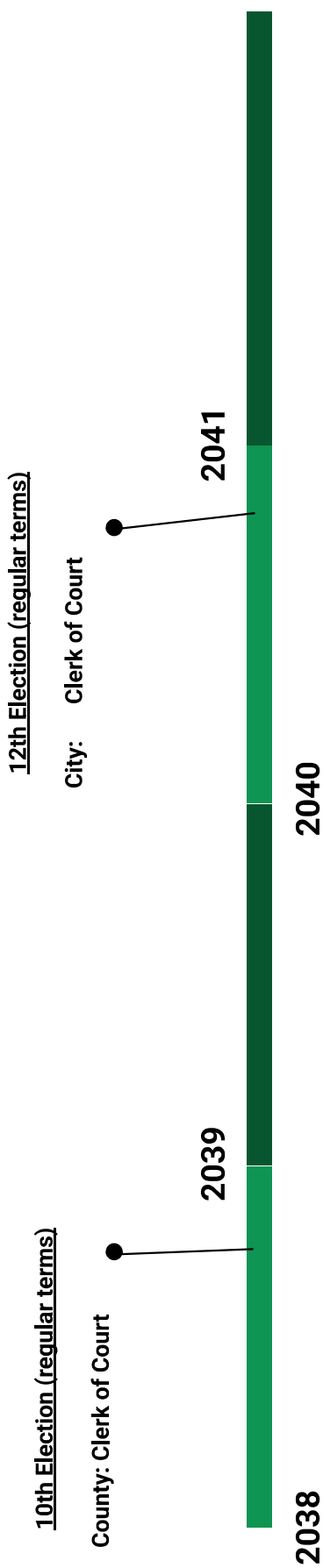
Beginning Consolidation



Still Consolidating...



Consolidation Complete



The End

Questions?
