

THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
JURY PLAN
REVISED OCTOBER 2025

I. Jury Judge – CJP §8-204

The jury judge for the Circuit Court shall be the County Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court or another judge designated by the County Administrative Judge.

II. Jury Commissioner and Acting Jury Commissioner - CJP §8-205

A. Jury Commissioner

The jury commissioner for the Circuit Court shall be an employee of the Circuit Court for Worcester County, Maryland designated by the jury judge.

B. Acting Jury Commissioner

(1) If the jury commissioner is temporarily unavailable or unable to perform duties, the jury judge shall designate an acting jury commissioner.

(2) In this plan, “jury commissioner” includes an acting jury commissioner.

III. Juror Selection

A. Randomness - CJP §8-104

Each jury for a county shall be selected at random from a fair cross section of the adult citizens of this State who reside in the county. To ensure randomness of selection, names shall be selected from the full pool of names in a manner in which no one can affect the selection or exclusion of a specific name. Computer or other means may be used for selection in accordance with the requirements for randomness.

B. Restrictions on Exclusion - CJP §8-102(b)

A citizen may not be excluded from jury service due to color, disability, economic status, national origin, race, religion, or sex.

C. Frequency of Service - CJP §8-216

Notwithstanding CJP § 8-310(c)(2), an individual may be summoned for jury service after 1 year if the individual serves on a trial jury for fewer than 5 days in a 3-year period.

D. Source Pool for Prospective Jurors - CJP §§ 8-206(a) and (b) and 8-213

- (1) The source pool shall include the names of all the adult residents of the County on:
 - (i) Statewide voter registration list;
 - (ii) A list of holders of driver's licenses issue by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; and
 - (iii) A list of holders of identification cards issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

This section D does not preclude the use of technology and/or lists for removing duplicate or obsolete data, so long as new names are not added in the process.

- (2) The jury judge shall have the source pool compiled:
 - (i) by the jury commissioner
 - (ii) with the agreement of the Administrative Office of the Courts, by the Administrative Office; or
 - (iii) by a contractor.
- (3) The Statewide voter registration list shall be no older than that used in the most recent general election.

E. Prospective Juror Pool - CJP §§ 8-206(a), 8-207, and 8-213

- (1) To ensure that each jury is selected in accordance with the requirements of CJP Title 8, the jury commissioner is to have the names of prospective jurors selected solely from the most recent source pool as provided in this Section E.
- (2) The jury judge shall have the names of prospective jurors selected at least once a year and at additional times when the jury judge directs.
- (3) The minimum number of names to be selected is the greater of:
 - (i) 150 prospective jurors' or
 - (ii) 0.5% of the total number of names in the source pool.
- (4) The jury judge shall have the names selected randomly:
 - (i) by the jury commissioner
 - (ii) with the agreement of the Administrative Office of the Courts, by the Administrative Office; or
 - (iii) by a contractor.

F. *Juror Qualification* - CJP §§ 8-103, 8-106(c), 8-208, 8-210, 8-212, 8-213, 8-214, 8-302, and 8-402.

- (1) Each individual whose name is selected under Section E shall be sent a juror qualification form, which may include a summons. The jury judge shall have the form sent:
 - (i) by the jury commissioner;
 - (ii) with the agreement of the Administrative Office of the Courts, by the Administrative Office; or
 - (iii) by a contractor.
- (2) In addition to the questions set forth under CJP § 8-302(a), the juror qualification form shall ask for:
 - (i) home, work, and cellular telephone numbers;
 - (ii) name of employer;
 - (iii) electronic mail address(es); and
 - (iv) need for accommodation under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- (3) Qualification and summoning may be a single procedure or two separate procedures.
 - (i) Summons for jury service shall be served:
 1. by first class United States mail to address; and
 2. on failure to respond to service by mail, personally by the Sheriff.
 - (ii) The jury judge shall have service effected:
 1. by the jury commissioner;
 2. with the agreement of the Administrative Office of the Courts, by the Administrative Office; or
 3. by a contractor.
- (4) Based on the information provided on the juror qualification form or during an interview or other competent evidence, a jury judge shall:
 - (i) except as expressly provided otherwise in this Section F (6), decide all questions with regard to disqualifying a person from jury service, exempting an individual from jury service, excusing an individual from jury service, and postponing jury service of an individual;
 - (ii) decide all questions referred by the jury commissioner; and
 - (iii) act on a written request for review of the jury commissioner's decision as to disqualification, exemption, or postponement.
- (5) Based on the information provided on the juror qualification form or during an interview or other competent evidence, the jury commissioner may:

- (i) exempt an individual from jury service:
 - 1. if the individual makes a written request for exemption as being 70 years old or older;
 - 2. while an individual is an elected official of the federal legislative branch, as defined in 2 U.S.C. § 30A;
 - 3. if the individual is an active duty member of the Armed Forces with documentation required under 10 U.S.C. § 982 and 32 C.F.R. Parts 144 and 516, pursuant to DoD Directive 5525.8; or
 - 4. if the individual is a member of the organized militia with documentation required under Maryland Code, Public Safety Article §13-218;
 - (ii) decide whether an individual is disqualified from jury service because the individual:
 - 1. is not a United States citizen;
 - 2. is not an adult on the day selected as a prospective juror;
 - 3. is not a county resident;
 - 4. cannot comprehend spoken English or speak English;
 - 5. cannot comprehend written English, read English, or write English proficiently enough to complete a juror disqualification form satisfactorily;
 - 6. has a disability documented by a health care documented by a healthcare provider;
 - 7. has been convicted of a crime for which the individual was sentenced to imprisonment for more than 1 year and has not been pardoned;
 - 8. has a pending criminal charge with potential sentence of imprisonment for more than 1 year;
 - 9. is dead; or
 - 10. is a breast-feeding mother or has legal custody of (and is personally responsible for) a child younger than age three requiring continuous care by the individual during normal court hours;
 - (iii) reschedule jury service for an individual not more than twice.
- (6) Notwithstanding any authority granted under this Section F(6), the jury commissioner:
- (i) may refer a decision to the jury judge;
 - (ii) shall inform the jury judge immediately after the jury commissioner becomes aware that a sworn juror was, is, or will be disqualified for jury service.

- (7) An individual may submit a written request for review of the jury commissioner's decision under this Section F(6).

G. Qualified Juror Pool - CJP §§ 8-207, 8-209, and 8-213

- (1) To ensure that each jury is selected in accordance with the requirements of CJP Title 8, the jury commissioner is to have the names of qualified jurors selected as provided in this Section G.
- (2) The jury judge shall have the names of qualified jurors selected at intervals that the jury judge directs.
- (3) The jury judge shall determine the minimum number of names to be selected based on the needs of the Circuit Court.
- (4) The jury judge shall have the names selected:
 - (i) by the jury commissioner;
 - (ii) with the agreement of the Administrative Office of the Courts, by the Administrative Office; or
 - (iii) by a contractor.
- (5) From among the qualified jurors, without dictating the sequence of selection:
 - (i) 23 names shall be selected to serve as grand jurors;
 - (ii) names shall be selected to serve as alternate grand jurors in the number required under the Maryland Rules; and
 - (iii) the rest shall be available for selection for additional grand juries and for trial juries.

IV. Access to Juror Information – CJP § 8-105

Access to juror information shall only be allowed by rule.

V. Grand Jury Terms – Maryland Rule 16-301

A. Number of Grand Jurors; Alternates – CJP § 8-412(a)

When sworn, a grand jury shall consist of 23 grand jurors, plus additional grand jurors as provided in the Maryland Rules.

B. Terms – Maryland Rule 16-301

The grand jury term shall begin on the fourth Monday in February and the fourth Monday in September.

C. Additional Grand Juries - CJP § 8-413; Maryland Rule 16-301

In addition to any grand jury serving under Section A, on petition of the State's Attorney, the County Administrative Judge may summons one or more grand juries. The term of service of any additional grand jury shall be determined by the County Administrative Judge.

D. Extending the Term of a Grand Jury - Maryland Rule 16-301

On motion of the State's Attorney, the County Administrative Judge or the jury judge may extend the term of a grand jury or additional grand jury so that it may complete an investigation specified by the judge in the order. The grand jury shall continue until it concludes its investigation or is sooner discharged by the judge but is limited to the investigation specified in the order.

VI. Grand Jury Forepersons - CJP § 8-211

The foreperson of each grand jury shall be the individual selected by the jury judge.

VII. Show Cause - CJP §§ 8-503(b), 8-504(b), and 8-505(b)

A. Order

On order of the jury judge, the jury commissioner shall issue a show cause order directed to any person for whom good cause exists to believe that the person may have violated CJP §§ 8-503, 8-504, or 8-505.

B. Hearing

The jury judge, or another judge designated by the County Administrative Judge, shall hear and decide all issues pertaining to show cause orders issued under Section A.

Notes:

1. Updated citation reference [CJ] to [CJP].
2. Updated statutory amendment in Section III.F.6.(ii)7 [6 months] to [1 year].
3. Updated statutory amendment in Section III.F.6.(ii)8 (6 months] to [1 year].
4. Updated citation reference in Section V. [Md. Rule 16-107] to [Md. Rule 16-301].
5. Added information referencing Parental Accommodations effective October 1, 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JURY
PLAN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY

* IN THE
* SUPREME COURT
* OF MARYLAND

ORDER

Pursuant to § 8-203 of the Court's and Judicial Proceedings Article, it is this 10th day of November 2025, by the Supreme Court of Maryland,

ORDERED that the Circuit Court for Worcester County's revised jury plan, submitted on October 20, 2025, is approved. The Clerk shall deliver a copy of the revised jury plan and this order to the State Court Administrator for posting to the Maryland Judiciary's webpage.

/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

Filed: November 10, 2025

/s/ Greg Hilton
Clerk