February 6, 2025

Speaker Brenson S. Wase
Office of the Speaker
Nitijela
P.O. Box 24
Majuro, MH 96960

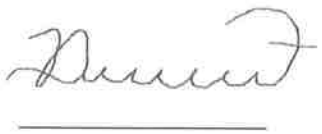
Re: Final Post Constitutional Convention Committee (PCCC) Report - attached.

Iokwe Speaker Wase,

On behalf of the members of the Post Constitutional Convention Committee (PCCC), I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Office of the Speaker for both the appointment and continued support of the Committee's work on the constitutional amendment process in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve on this critical committee, which is dedicated to working for the benefit of the Republic and its people.

Enclosed, please find the Final Report detailing the Committee's tasks related to public education in preparation for the Referendum to be held on April 25, 2025. We remain committed to advancing the work entrusted to us and are fully prepared to continue our efforts, should further engagement be necessary to ensure the successful finalization of the Referendum.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the Speaker's Office and the Members of the Nitijela for providing us with the opportunity to serve in this important national endeavor.



Divine F. Waiti
Chairman

POST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Report

NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS | JAN-2025

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FORWARD

This report has been prepared by the Post Constitutional Convention Committee (PCCC) as part of its mandate under the Office of the Speaker of the Nitijela, following the Fourth Constitutional Convention held in 2017.

The 2017 Constitutional Convention approved eight proposals to amend the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Subsequently, the Referendum (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to facilitate a National Referendum on these proposed amendments.

The Post-Constitutional Convention activities began in 2019 lead by the Chairman of Constitutional Convention Senator Kessai Note to conduct public education. An initial trip was taken to the United States; however, further activities were interrupted by the dengue outbreak and later by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This lead to the Speaker Kenneth Kedi, appointed the current PCCC in 2024 to carry out a nationwide public education campaign aimed at informing Marshallese voters about the proposed constitutional amendments before casting their vote pursuant to the Referendum (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2018. The PCCC was composed of the following members:

Divine Waiti – Legislative Counsel for the Nitijela, Chairman

Catalino Kijiner – Deputy Chief Secretary, Vice Chairman

Bernard Adiniwin – Attorney General, Member

Wilson Note – Commissioner for the Customary Law and Language Commission, Member

Ben Kiluwe – Chief Election Officer, Member

Adele Kinso – Budget Officer, Ministry of Finance, Member

Winnie Benjamin – Public Representative, Member

Under its mandate, the PCCC conducted an extensive public education campaign targeting eligible voters both in the Marshall Islands and in the

United States. The campaign included (i) Public consultations and presentations, (ii) Radio programs and newspaper publications, (iii) Media outreach via various platforms, (iv) Engagements with churches, schools, and community organizations.

The work of the PCCC would not have been possible without the support and contributions of:

Former Speaker of the Nitijela, Kenneth A. Kedi

Speaker of the Nitijela, Brenson S. Wase

Members of the Nitijela

Nitijela staff and public educators

The members of the Post Constitutional Convention Committee express their deepest appreciation to Speaker Brenson S. Wase and the Members of the Nitijela for the opportunity to serve in this important national endeavor.

Kommol Tata.

Divine F. Waiti – Chairman

Catalino Kijiner, Vice Chairman

Bernard Adiniwin, Member

Wilson Note, Member

Ben Kiluwe, Member

Adele Kinso, Member

Winnie Benjamin, Member

INTRODUCTION

Overview

This report highlights the post-constitutional amendment process in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, tracing its development from inception to the current stage, which involves public education in preparation for a national referendum on April 25, 2025.

Significance of Public Engagement

The drafter of the Marshall Islands Constitution, Alison Quentin-Baxter of New Zealand, underscores the importance of public involvement in the constitutional process:

> **"A Constitution cannot take root in the hearts and minds of the people who live under it unless they are kept fully informed about the process of making it and take part in the process as much as possible."**

Given the complexity and uniqueness of the amendment process in the Pacific region, especially for the Marshall islands, public awareness and engagement remain critical.

Amendment Processes

The Constitution of the Marshall Islands provides two primary processes for amendments:

1. Minor Amendments: These involve changes such as renaming organizations or entities. The process follows these steps: Approval by the Nitijela through an Act with a two-thirds majority vote. Approval by a national referendum with another two-thirds majority of qualified votes cast. Certification by the Speaker.

2. Major Amendments: These involve significant structural changes to the governance system and follow a more extensive process: Approval by the Nitijela through an Act with a two-thirds majority vote.

Consideration and approval by a Constitutional Convention. Approval by a national referendum. Certification by the Speaker as law.

The current constitutional amendment follows this major amendment process.

Initiation of Constitutional Amendments.

Amendments to the Constitution can be initiated through:

(i) Legislative Action: The Nitijela may initiate amendments either by an Act or through a periodic review.

(ii) Public Petition: If two-thirds of registered voters petition the Nitijela for specific amendments, the Nitijela is obligated to take action, which then falls on the Nitijela for a legislative action.

Periodic Review and Recent Developments

Article XII, Section 6 of the Constitution mandates a periodic review every ten years. The Nitijela must report whether constitutional amendments are necessary.

On April 12, 2012, the Nitijela adopted Resolution No. 3, instructing the Speaker to appoint a special committee to assess the need for amendments or a Constitutional Convention.

The Speaker established the Pre-Convention Special Committee to gather public input and recommend proposals. The Committee proposed various amendments, including the direct election of the President by the people and the establishment of an Ombudsman.

Establishment of the 2017 Constitutional Convention

Pursuant to Article XII, Section 4, the Nitijela enacted the Constitutional Convention Act 2017, which created the Constitutional Convention. It referred 20 proposed amendments for consideration. The Constitution ensured that the Convention could only deliberate on proposals referred by the Nitijela.

Following elections, the Constitutional Convention convened on April 10, 2017. Delegates participated in a week-long workshop to familiarize themselves with the proposals. Public consultations were conducted in the Marshall Islands and

the United States. After deliberation, eight proposals were approved for constitutional amendment.

Historical Constitutional Conventions

Since the first Constitutional Convention in 1979, two additional conventions have been held:

1990 Constitutional Convention: Adopted four amendments, including renaming the country as the "Republic of the Marshall Islands" and reinforcing the Constitution's application within the nation's traditional boundaries.

1995 Constitutional Convention: Considered 41 proposals, with only one amendment passed, prioritizing the Marshallese text over the English text of the Constitution.

The current constitutional amendment process is a continuation of past efforts to refine governance in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As the nation prepares for the referendum on April 25, 2025, public education and participation remain crucial to ensuring an informed electorate and a democratic constitutional evolution.

THE WORK PCCC

1. ORGANIZATION.

The PCCC held its inaugural meeting on July 28, 2023, where it reviewed approved proposals, discussed the public education program and activities, and considered its $350,000 working budget allocated by the Nitijela which later increased as shown below. The Committee designated Elani Loeak and Bernice Joash from the Nitijela staff to assist Clerk Morean Watak as the Secretariat.

Initially, the PCCC aimed to conduct the Referendum alongside the General Election on November 20, 2023. However, the date was later moved to July 25, 2024, as declared by Speaker Kenneth Kedi at the conclusion of the Nitijela

session on September 30, 2023. A subsequent declaration by Speaker Brenson S. Wase set for July 25, 2024 but later moved to the new Referendum date for April 25, 2025.

During a later meeting, the Committee elected Deputy Chief Secretary Catelino Kijiner as the Vice-Chair of the Committee. It also decided to contract public educators to assist with the public education process and to hire Nitijela staff for logistical support, pending confirmation from the Public Service Commission.

Recognizing their expertise, the Committee agreed that its members should actively participate in public education efforts, as they possess a deep understanding of the proposals. This decision was reaffirmed at the seventh meeting on September 15, 2023, where the Committee resolved to have its members support hired educators and staff in public outreach.

To acknowledge their additional efforts beyond their regular duties, the Committee agreed that members engaged in public education would receive an honorarium, rather than standard compensation. Their outreach will extend to Majuro communities, neighboring islands, and the United States, ensuring broad public awareness and understanding of the proposals.

2. PLAN OF ACTION.

An Action Plan was formulated, discussed and approved by the Committee during its meetings. The Committee agreed to target the voting Marshallese population both in the Marshall Islands and in the United States. The Committee concluded to conduct education in all the communities in Majuro Atoll, the neighboring atolls, and the United States.

In the initial planning, was to focus on these targeted areas before the November 20, 2023 General Election of which the Referendum will coincide with the General Election, but due to the change of date of the Referendum, and with the plan of action having been agreed, the Committee proceeded to mobilize efforts, first to the communities in Majuro, started with Rita and

Laura and then to other communities in Majuro. Trips were plan for the neighboring islands using boats, grounding flights and spend for bigger atolls and islands to spend few days conduct the public education around the atolls or islands.

The United States was mapped into four sectors, (i) Pacific group which covers Guam, Saipan and Hawaii, (ii) the West Coast, covering Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, Colorado, Oregon and Washington States, (iii) East Coast, covering Florida, Georgia, Washington D.C., and North Carolina, (iv) Mid-west, which covers Arkansas, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio.

With the Committee's primary to educate every voting population of the Marshall Islands as much as it could to enable them to make inform choice when casting their votes at the Referendum, the Committee had at stake a larger responsibility to carry in the reaching the population. The scope of plan education visits and places are attached to this Report as Appendix 1.

The Committee agreed to engage public educators mostly from PSS and others who do not have formal jobs to assist with the public education, and also to engage Nitijela staff to assist with the logistics and program activities. Contracts were considered for them with the approval from PSC especially for those employed by the Public Services Commission.

The Committee also agreed to make people aware through the media, especially the Marshall Islands Journal and V7AB broadcastings.

3. THE COVERAGE OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Through its public education efforts, the Committee successfully conducted outreach in nearly all areas identified in the plan, with a few exceptions, including certain atolls and parts of the East Coast of the United States.

In Majuro, the Committee reached the communities in Rita, Uliga, Delap, Rairok, Ajeltake, and Wotja, but was unable to cover Laura, as the people were not present during the scheduled consultation.

For the neighboring atolls and islands, the Committee visited Arno Atoll, Mili Atoll, Maloelap Atoll, Aur, Mejit, Ebon, Namdrik, Jaluit, Jabot, Namu, Lib, Kwajalein, Lae, Ujae, and Enewetak.

In the United States, the Pacific group visited Guam, Saipan, and Hawaii. The West Coast group covered Orange County, Costa Mesa, and Sacramento in California, as well as Reno, Nevada; Phoenix and Tucson in Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; Portland, Salem, and La Grande in Oregon; and Tri-Cities, Spokane, and Auburn in Washington. The East Coast group visited Florida, Georgia, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina. The Midwest group visited Springdale, Arkansas; Dubuque, Waterloo, Ottumwa, and Cedar Rapids in Iowa; Evansville, Indiana; and Celine, Ohio. Due to financial constraints, regions such as Texas and Oklahoma were not covered, but Denver, Colorado will be included in the Midwest trip to address requests from the Marshallese community there.

In addition to community visits, the Committee conducted awareness campaigns by visiting schools and colleges, especially the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI). The Committee also published articles in the Marshall Islands Journal over several weeks and made radio broadcasts to further engage the public.

4. COMMUNITIES NOT COVERED.

In Majuro, the Committee has not yet been able to engage with the Laura people with the proposals, as the initial educational event was poorly attended. Despite rescheduling efforts, the event has not yet taken place.

The following neighboring islands and atolls are still to be covered:

Likiep Atoll

Wotho Atoll

Ailuk Atoll

Utrik Atoll

Wotje Atoll

Kili Island

Parts of Ailinglaplap

In the United States, the remaining communities to be reached are located in the southwest, including:

Texas and Oklahoma

Colorado

Several cities in Arkansas, such as Berryville, Paragould, and Huntsville

Due to financial constraints however, Speaker Wase in consultation with the Committee agreed that aware through the media, especially the V7AB broadcastings should be continued of which the Nitijela Team has been facilitating once in every week.

5. FINANCES.

The initial Appropriation for the Convention work in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitutional Convention Act, allocated $800,000 to cover expenses related to the election, administration, and operation of the Convention.

Subsequent Allocations thereafter with Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2016 allocated $572,960 for the Convention's work.

In FY2020 included special appropriations of $150,000 and $300,000 for the post Convention work, with the latter amount assigned to MOCIA in coordination with the election.

In FY2021 PCC had a $300,000 allocation under the Supplemental Appropriation.

Post-ConCon Committee Budget for Public Awareness:

In preparation for the November 20, 2023, National Referendum, the Speaker Kedi, when appointed the PCCC, the Committee proposed a budget of $720,000.13 for public education and the referendum.

Two parts of the budget (1) $162,250 from the General Fund to support domestic public education before the Appropriation Act for FY2024 passes, and (2) $557,750 for FY2024, intended to be spent before the November election.

The total actual allocated budget amounted to $553,407.04. This reflects an additional allocation beyond the initial budget to cover various expenses as discussed above, including trips to neighboring islands and the United States, as well as the hiring of public educators and Nitijela staff and members. The remaining budget is totaled $102,002.16, which later shifted for other reasons, which resulted in insufficient financial support to complete the work of the PCCC.

The approved budgets and the breakdown of these expenditures are provided shown below:

POST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION	553,407.040
Secretary of Finance	553,407.040
Fiscal Year 2024	553,407.040
Professional Services	19,402.000
Contractual Services	188,128.390
Travel	37,952.000
International Travel	227,335.360
Rentals	27,435.000
Advertising	4,500.000
Printing & Reproduction	6,417.250
Office/Computer Supplies	662.040
POL	2,500.000
Food Stuff	23,875.000
Other Supplies/Materials	4,000.000
Allowances	11,200.000

Name	Budgeted	Encumbrances BRV/PO	Encumbrances PRV/TM	Expenditure/Revenue
Expense	553,407.040	105,669.970	98,321.500	320,822.380
General Fund	553,407.040	105,669.970	98,321.500	320,822.380
POST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION	553,407.040	105,669.970	98,321.500	320,822.380
Secretary of Finance	553,407.040	105,669.970	98,321.500	320,822.380

Fiscal Year 2024	553,407.040	105,669.970	98,321.500	320,822.380
Professional Services	19,402.000			
Contractual Services	188,128.390	87,408.970		100,719.420
Travel	37,952.000		19,058.000	17,376.000
International Travel	227,335.360		79,263.500	147,989.460
Rentals	27,435.000	1,500.000		24,400.000
Advertising	4,500.000	4,000.000		500.000
Printing & Reproduction	6,417.250	3,286.000		
Office/Computer Supplies	662.040			
POL	2,500.000	2,500.000		
Food Stuff	23,875.000	3,375.000		18,237.500
Other Supplies/Materials	4,000.000	3,600.000		400.000
Allowances	11,200.000			11,200.000

DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSALS DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

THE SEVEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

The proposed amendments now consolidated into seven, focus on significant changes to the powers of the Attorney General to the Ombudsman. The shift in power related to high-level crimes and the potential strengthening of oversight bodies, like the Ombudsman, which will carry on the role of investigation and prosecution of high level crimes from the Office of the Attorney General. As these amendments directly affect the governance structure and public accountability, their impact on Marshallese society will be substantial, depending on how effectively they address concerns about transparency, justice, and fairness.

It's interesting that community consultations have generally shown support for the amendments. This might suggest a broader desire for reforms in governance or increased public trust in institutions like the Attorney General's office and the Ombudsman. However, it would be crucial to monitor the debates leading up to the referendum, as public perceptions may evolve based on how the proposals are framed in relation to societal needs, justice, and governance in the Marshall Islands.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1

[TO AMEND ARTICLE XI SECTION 2(b) AND ARTICLE XIV, SECTION1: LIMITING ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP BY REGISTRATION AND REQUIRING "that a person applying for citizenship has been a resident in the Republic for no less than ten (10) years, is the parent of a child who is a citizen of the Republic, and is married to the parent of that child, whose parent is also a citizen of the Republic"]

The Current language of the Constitution provides for a person applying for citizenship, to must reside for 3 years before applying, and need not to marry to a Marshallese citizen. The amendment now requires that a person must be (i) 10 years residence, (ii) must be the parent of the child, and (iii) must married to the Marshallese citizen.

Although this proposal is uncontroversial, the question most people asked during consultation was, if all the requirements have been met and the person granted citizenship, and then divorce, what are the mechanisms there to protect the Marshallese, whom they have divorced? The implication of these questions relates to marriage of convenience whereby a person married a Marshallese for the purposes of convenience to conduct business in the Marshall Islands or to move and reside in the United States under the Marshallese privileges provided by the US.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2

[TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION: to increase the membership of the Council of Irooj from the districts of the Ratak Chain to include another Iroojlaplap from Mili Atoll]

This is an uncontroversial proposal which requires an increase of additional Iroijlaplap.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3

[TO AMEND ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4(3) AND ARTICLE VI, SECTION2(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE TRADITIONALRIGHTS COURT: In order to confer original jurisdiction to the Traditional Rights Courts to determine controversies relating to the customary law, traditional practices, land rights and titles or other related customary or traditional matters, and to confer appellate jurisdiction to Supreme Court to hear appeals from TRC]

The current language of the Constitution provides that TRC is a referral court without original jurisdiction (meaning cannot start a case at the TRC). The original jurisdiction is with the High Court in which every land cases are started at the High Court, and if it relates to the customary law, traditional practices, land rights and titles or other related customary or traditional matters, such case is referred to TRC to give its opinion in which the Judge will issue the judgment. The proposal now is to confer the original jurisdiction to the TRC to start the cases other than referral and to make judgments other than opinions. It also confers the appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to hear appeals directly from the TRC.

Various questions were asked by the communities regarding the qualification, competencies and impartiality of the judges who will be able to handle cases when the TRC is conferred with the original jurisdictions.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4

[TO AMEND ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TO ADD NEW SECTION UNDER ARTICLE VII, TO ESTABLISH THE OMBUDSMAN: amend subsection (3) of Article VII, by transferring the duties of the Attorney General to prosecute offences relating to fraud, misuse of public funds, misconduct in office, abuse of office, bribery, corruption, or other ethical conduct contrary to law by any elected or high officials, and to add a new Section 12 of Article VII, to provide for the establishment of an Ombudsman, the duties and responsibilities of the Ombudsman, the manner of appointment and removal, tenure and compensation]

While Ombudsman is provided for under the Constitution of other Pacific Island countries, there is no provision currently provided under the Constitution for the establishment of an Ombudsman. The term "ombudsman"

originates from Swedish, which means "representative" or "agent." An ombudsman is an independent official or agency responsible for investigating and resolving complaints made by individuals or groups against an organization, company, or government body. In this proposal, the Ombudsman is responsible for investigating and prosecuting government officers or members whom the public have raised complaints against.

During the public consultation, most communities do not generally understand what is Ombudsman and its roles. Most questions asked regarding the impartiality of the person who will become the Ombudsman, many recommending an expatriate person in order to avoid the conflict of interests with close relations that exists in the Marshall Islands.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5

[TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, AND ARTICLE XIV, SECTION1, relates to qualifications of Nitijela candidates by adding a new subsection to read as follows: "Any person who is qualified to be a candidate must have land rights by birth and be a natural born citizen." "natural born citizen"means a person who, at the time of birth, either his/her mother or father has a jowi and is a citizen pursuant to subparagraph(a) of paragraph 2 of Section 1 of Article XI?]

The current language of the Constitution requires certain qualifications, that a person who wishes to be candidate for Nitijela must (i) be a Citizen, (ii) must attain the age of 21, and as a qualified voter, (iii) must not certified insane, and (iv) not convicted of felony. This proposal provides for additional qualification that a candidate must have land rights by birth and be a natural born citizen. A natural born citizen means a person who at birth has a jowi of his father or mother.

Majority of the communities visited have supported this proposal with few questions raised especially from the communities in the United States especially in relation to children who are adopted and live in the US or children whom parents have parents are part Marshallese or the grand children of such inter-marriage relations.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 6

[TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION2(1) to include Āneen kio Island as part of the electoral district with which it is closely associated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to read, in part, as follows: ". . . Ṇadikdik, Ādkup, Jemọ, Tōke, Pikaar, Bokaak, Āneenkio, Roñdik and Aelōñinae shall each be included in the electoral district with which it is most closely associated, pursuant to the customary law or any traditional practice.]

This the second time to include Aneen Kio Island to be recognized as part of the Marshall Islands. The first attempt was in 1979 during the consultations in which the US Delegation has opposed to that proposal in which the language was tailored in the preamble to states "our rightful home on the islands within the traditional boundaries of this archipelago," which inexplicitly includes Aneen Kio.

The questions were asked about the conflicting claims between the US claims and the RMI traditional boundaries during the consultation, of which many questions the outcome whether such would make difference to the US standing on Wake Island as the US called it.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 7

[TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION: by adding the words "Enewetak and"immediately before the word "Ujelang" and wherever the word "Ujelang" appears in this section so that it reads "Enewetak and Ujelang"]

The is a technical amendment that is uncontroversial to ensure that Enewetak and Ujelang are considered together, and appeared together wherever it appears in the Constitution.

Although this uncontroversial, unrelated question were asked, who owns Enewetak and Ujelang?

THE REFERENDUM

The most important part of the Constitutional amendment process is the Referendum. The Marshall Islands chose to have this process although it is an expensive mechanism to amend the Constitution.

Having a referendum to amend constitution serves several important purposes, including: (i) direct participation of the people in the amendment, which allows citizens to directly vote on a proposed constitutional amendment, ensuring that the public has a say in critical decisions that shape the foundational legal framework of a country. (ii) it requires lawmakers to make the decision of amending Constitution with the people rather than only with political representatives. (iii) it prevents unilateral or partisan changes to the constitution by requiring a broader consensus, often beyond the governing majority in the legislature of which the majority of the people have the say in changing the Constitution.

Article XII, Section 4 of the Constitution provides that amendment by the Constitutional Convention must be approved by two-thirds of the votes validly cast in a referendum of all qualified voters.

Attached to the Report is the Referendum (Constitutional Amendment) Act 2018, Appendix 1

THE PREPARATIONS FOR REFERENDUM - RMIEA

The Marshall Islands Election Administration Office is responsible for the facilitation of the Referendum under the supervision of the Minister and Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs.

In July 23, 2024 Speaker Brenson S. Wase, declared the Referendum to be held from July 25, 2024 to April 25, 2025. The RMIEA has been since then, made several publicly announcements of the new Referendum date through social & other media outlets in RMI.

Under the Special Appropriation of the Appropriations Act 2024, only $350,000 was allocated for the Referendum which according to the Chief Electoral Officer Ben Kiluwe is creating a shortfall of $394,000 which is needed to facilitate the Referendum.

On December 18, 2024, the Namdrik Special Election to elect a new mayor declared to coincide with the Referendum on April 25, 2025.

On the same date, notices were issued to inform voters that both registration and nomination for both the Referendum and Special Election of Namdrik will be closed on February 29, 2025, in order to print a new voters masterlist and publish the Namdrik candidate list pursuant to law.

On Jan 15, 2025 public notice issued to inform qualified voters that application for postal and mobile ballot paper is opened and will be closed pursuant to law as follows:

a) for voters who will be temporarily out-of-RMI on the Referendum & Special Election date, may apply for a postal ballot paper and the deadline is 5 days prior to, or on April 19. 2025.

b) for voters who are permanently residing out-of-RMI on the Referendum & Special Election date, may apply for a postal ballot paper and the deadline is 14 days prior to, or on April 10, 2025.

c) for confined voters who have disability and will be in the RMI on the Referendum and Special Election date and have difficulty to attend a polling place in order to cast their vote, may apply for a mobile ballot paper within 44 days prior to or on April 5, 2025.

On February 27, 2025, a public hearing will be conducted on Nitijela Bill No. 32, to amend Referendum Amendment Act 2018-18 to eliminate the threshold of $650,000 for conducting Referendum and insert an amount based on a budget proposal for conducting the Referendum. The current proposed budget proposal for the Referendum is $700,000 and above - the $650,000 is the threshold.

On March 3, 2025, ballot number draw for Namdrik mayoral candidates will be conducted.

On April 17-21, 2025, ballot materials will be dispatched to the Neighboring Islands including Kwajalein.

On April 25, 2025, (7am-7pm) Referendum & Special Election Day throughout the Republic, the date falls on a Friday, a declaration for holiday be issued to accommodate polling hours during the day.

After polling 7pm, April 25, 2025 counting and tabulation will commenced for approximately 3 days (80 hrs) on which final certified results will be transmitted to the Office of the Speaker upon the completion of counting and tabulation.

Upon the approved by two-thirds of the votes validly cast in the referendum of all qualified voters, the Speaker will certify the amendments as laws.

Attached to Appendix 2 is a sample Specimen for the Referendum

APPENDIX

TITLE 2 - ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA
CHAPTER 5 - REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT) ACT 2018.

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TITLE 2 - ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA
CHAPTER 5 - REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT) ACT 2018.

AN ACT to provide for the holding of Referendum pursuant to paragraph (4) of Article XII of the Constitution.

Commencement:	*March 15, 2018*
Source:	*P.L. 2018-69*

§101. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the Referendum (Constitutional Amendment) Act 2018..

§102. Referendum.

(1) There shall be conducted throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands, pursuant to Article XII, Section 4, paragraph (4) of the Constitution, a national referendum among all qualified voters on the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

(2) The referendum shall be conducted in accordance with the Election and Referenda Act of 1980.

(3) The referendum shall be conducted on the date fixed by the Speaker in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer.

§103. Proposed Amendments for Referendum.

The Proposed Amendments for Referendum are hereby listed under Schedule 1.

§104. Result of the Referendum.

(1) In addition to making the official declaration of the results of the Referendum in accordance with Sections 185 and 189 of the Elections and Referenda Act, 1980 (2 MIRC Chapter 1), the Chief Electoral Officer shall also transmit the results to the Speaker of the Nitijela as soon as practicable.

(2) Upon receiving the official results of the referendum from the Chief Electoral Officer, the Speaker shall, upon being satisfied that the amendments were approved in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and applicable laws, certify that such amendments has been made pursuant to Article XII, Section 4, paragraph (4) of the Constitution, as having been submitted to the people by a Constitutional Convention and approved by two-thirds of the votes validly cast in a referendum of all qualified voters on the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

§105. Expenses for the Referendum.

The cost of holding the referendum shall not exceed $650,000, as provided for under the Appropriations (Financial Year 2018) Act, or such other greater amount as may be provided for in accordance with applicable law.

§106. Effective date.

This Act shall take effect on the date of certification in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE SUBHEADING

(SECTION 103)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

ELMOKOT NO. 1&22D2

Elmokot No. 1&22D2, Article XI, DriAilinKein, Section 2, Armij Ro Remaron Erom Dri Ailin Kein, paragraph (1), subparagraph (b),ej oktak im kenono einwot in:

(b) bwe ear jokwe ilo Republic eo an Marshall Islands iumin juon tore eo ejjab ietlokjen 10 yio, im e ej jinen ak jemen juon ajiri eo ej armij in Republic eo an Marshall Islands, im ej palele ippen jinen ak jemen ajiri eo, eo im jinen ak jemen ej bareinwot armij in Republic eo an Marshall Islands.

Oktak Ko Rej Aikuj Kommon.

Article XIV, Men KoJabrewot, Section 1, Melele in Naan Ko, ej oktak ilo an kobalok naan kein, ko im rej kenono einwot in:

> "palele" non un ko ikijien subparagraph (b) in paragraph (1) in Section 2 in Article XI, ej melelein juon palele eo ikotan juon eo ejjab citizen im juon eo ej citizen in Republic in, kabin kin kalimur ekkar non kien a ejjab koba palele ko kommon ekkar non manit.

Proposals No. 1 & 22D2, Article XI, Citizenship, Section 2, Citizenship by Registration, paragraph (1), subparagraph(b) is amended to read as follows:

(b) that he has been a resident in the Republic for not less than 10 years, is the parent of a child who is a citizen of the Republic, and is married to the parent of that child, which parent is also citizen of the Republic.

Consequential Amendment.

Article XIV, General, Section 1, Definitions, is amended by he inclusion of the following definition as follows:

"married" for purposes of subparagraph (b) of paragraph (1) of Section 2 of Article XI, means a marriage between a non-citizen and a citizen of the Republic solemnized pursuant to law but does not include a customary marriage.

ELMOKOT NO.14

Elmakot 14 - Article III, Section 1(2), Council an Iroij: Non ukot paragraph (2) im kalonlok uan Council an Iroij kin bar juon Iroij jenailin in Mili.

Article III Section 1(2) ej oktak einwot in:

"Council an Iroij enaj ejaak kin 5 ro rekkar jan bukon in ekaleel ko ilo Ralik Chain im 8 ro rekkar jen bukon in ekaleel ko ilo Ratak Chain i1o Marshall Islands ro kelet ir einwot in:

jen Ralik ejab koba Ujelang	4 Iroijlaplap
jen Ugelang	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Mili	2 Iroijlaplap
jen Arno	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Mejit	1 Iroijlaplap
Jen Majuro	1 Iroijlaplap
Jen Airok (Maloelap)	1 Iroijlaplap
Jen Aur, Maloelap (im jab koba (Airok), Wotje, Utrik im Ailuk	1 Iroijlaplap
Jen Likiep.	1 Owner

Proposal No. 14- Article III, Section 1(2), The Council of Iroij: *To amend paragraph (2) by increasing the total membership of the Council of Iroij by the inclusion of one additional Iroij member from Mili Atoll.*

Article III, Section 1(2) is amended to read as follows:

"The Council of Iroij shall consist of 5 eligible persons from districts of the Ralik Chain and 8 eligible persons from districts of the Ratak Chain of the Republic selected as follows:

from the Ralik Chain excluding Ujelang.....	*4 Iroijlaplaps*
from Ujelang.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Mili.....	*2Iroijlaplaps*
from Arno.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Mejit.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Majuro.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Airok (Maloelap).....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Aur, Maloelap (excluding Airok), Wotje, Utrik and Ailuk....	
.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Likiep.....	*1 Owner"*

ELMOKOT NO. 16D3

Elmokot 16D2, Article VI, Section 4(3), ikijien Traditional Rights Court eo ej oktak im naj kenono einwot in:

(3) Traditional Rights Court eo ewor an original jurisdiction non ronjake jabrewot abnono ko rejelet title ak jimwe im maron ko ion bwirej, ak jimwe im maron ko jet bedbed ion manit im jabrewot karkan manit im iminene ko ad ilo Republic eo an Marshall Islands.

Oktak Ko Rej Aikuj Kommon:

Paragraph (2) in Section 2 in Article VI, ikijien Supreme Court eo ej oktak ilo an kobalok jet naan kaal ilo subparagraph (c) im bwe naan ko ilo subparagraph (c) kiorenaj bed ilo juon subparagraph (d) kaal bwe Section 2 en kio kenono einwot in:

"(c) einwot juon jimwe jen jabrewot jemlok an Traditional Rights Court eo ilo an kojerbal eddo eo emoj komarone kake;
(d)..."

Innem subparagraph (c) eo kio enaj oktak im subparagraph (d).

Juon paragraph (6) kaal ej kobalok non Section 4 in Article VI, Traditional Rights Court eo, eo im ej kenono einwot in:

(6) Juon jemlokjen Traditional Rights Court eo maron appeal non Supreme Court eo, ekkar nan subparagraph (c) ilo paragraph (2) ilo Section 2 in Article in.

Proposal 16D2, Article VI, Section 4(3), The Traditional Rights Court: is amended to read as follows:

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(3) The Traditional Rights Court shall have original jurisdiction to determine disputes relating to titles or to land rights or to other legal interests depending wholly or partly on customary law and traditional practice in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Consequential Amendments:

Paragraph (2) of Section 2 of Article VI relating to the Supreme Court is amended by the adding of new language to subparagraph (c) and the current language of subparagraph (c) becomes a new subparagraph (d) so that Section 2 now reads as follows:

"(c) as a matter of right from any final determination of the Traditional Rights Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction.
(d)..."

And the language of current subparagraph (c) would then become (d).

A new paragraph (6) is added to Section 4, Article VI, Traditional Rights Court, to read as follows:

(6) A final determination of the Traditional Rights Court may be appealed to the Supreme Court, pursuant to subparagraph (c) of paragraph (2) of Section 2 of this Article.

ELMOKOT NO. 17D3

Article VII, Section 3(3), ikijien Attorney-General eo ej oktak einwot in:

Kobalok ibben jerbal im maron ko jet lelok non e iumin Kien, Attorney-General eo enaj kabilok ikijien jabrewot melele ko ikijien jimwe im Kien koim elelok in Cabinet eo, President eo ak juon Minister, im enaj bokedro in kommoni, jerbal ak kabojraki jabrewot makitkit ko ikijien juon jorren eo emoj kommone, ijellokin jerbal ko kommoni jen office eo an Ombudsman ikijien mon, bwodin kojerbal money ko an public, bwod in kojerbal office, kakure maron ko an office eo, wiaboro, corruption, im jerbal ko rejjab jimwe iumin kakien jen ro keletir ak rutiejro ilo Kien, im lale bwe kien ko ren jimwe im tiljok lori.

Oktak Ko Rej Aikuj Kommon:

Article XIV, Men KoJabrewot: Section 1, Melele in Naan Ko

> "rutiej eo" ej melelein jabrewot ri jerbal ilo Kien, tok jen jerbal eo an ibben Kien, ej bed iumin jet eddo ko im ejako ibben kajojo armij ro im ekoba kajojo armij eo ej bed ilo jerbal in tel ko ilo doulul ko ejaak kin kien, ak public corporation im doulul ko jet eierlok wot im ewor an eddo non kejbarok men ko mweien im jaan ko an public.

Article VII, Section 3(3), relating to the Attorney General, is amended as follows:

In addition to the other functions and powers conferred on him by law, the Attorney-General shall advise on legal matters referred to him by the Cabinet, the President or a Minister, and shall be responsible for instituting, conducting or discontinuing any proceedings for an offense alleged to have been committed, except for proceedings brought by

the office of the Ombudsman relating to fraud, misuse of public funds, misconduct in office, abuse of office, bribery, corruption, or other ethical conduct contrary to law by any elected or high officials, and for seeing to it that the laws are faithfully executed.

Consequential Amendments:

Article XIV, General: Section 1, Definitions:

> *"high officials" means any public officials who, because of his official status, is under special obligations that an ordinary person is not, and include any person in position of authority in public statutory or corporate bodies, entities, authorities who have fiduciary duties with respect to public property or monies.*

ELMOKOT NO.18D3

Elmakot 18D3 - Article VII, ej oktak non kobaiklok juon Section 12 kaal ikijien Ombudsman, eo im enaj kenono einwot in:

Section 12. Ombudsman eo.

(1) Speaker eo enaj jokelete im, kin weppen eo kalikare kin resolution an Nitijela eo, President eo enaj jiton juon Ombudsman eo an Republic eo an Marshall Islands.

(2) Ombudsman eo enaj bed ilo office toon wot an jimwe an jerbal, mae ien ej 72 an yio, ijelokin wot elane Ombudsman eo ejjab citizen in Republic in, emoj jitone non juon term in jerbal eo juon yio ak aitoklok.

(3) Ombudsman eo emaron, ilo jabrewot ien, kamoje jen office eo an ilo jeje kin eltan pein im jilkinlok non Speaker eo, botab, ejamin emakit ak bwijrak jen office ijellokin wot un im wawin ko ilo komakit juon dri ekajet an High Court ak an Supreme Court eo.

(4) Elane office eo an Ombudsman eo ejelok kobban, ak ealikkar ke Ombudsman eo enaj kin jabrewot un jab maron in kommoni jerbal ko an office eo an, inem Speaker eo enaj jokelete im President eo enaj jiton juon Acting Ombudsman; im Acting Ombudsman eo enaj

wonmanlok wot im bok edro in jerbal ko mae ien eo juon Ombudsman kaal emoj jitone im jino jerbal, ak, bedbed ion un ko ilo tore eo, mae ien Ombudsman eo enaj bar maron in kommoni jerbal ko an office eo an.

(5) Juon armij eo edededelok an kar bok office einwot Ombudsman lok iman, jamin maron bar jitone non office ko jet ilo jerbal ko an Marshall Islands ilo yio ko jilu elkin an jemlok an jerbal einwot Ombudsman.

(6) Ombudsman eo ej aikuj in juon armij eo ekkar ikijien jelalokjen, imminene, im maron non kommoni jerbal ko an Ombudsman.

(7) Wonen Ombudsman eo naj karoke kin kakien.

(8) Kobalok ibben jerbal im maron ko lilok none iumin kakien, Ombudsman eo enaj etale im maron liakelok jabrewot jerbal in mon, bwod in kojerbal money ko an public, bwod in kojerbal office, kakure maron ko an office eo, wia boro, corruption, im jerbal ko rejjab jimwe iumin kakien jen ro keletir ak rutiej ro ilo Kien.

(9) Ilo an kommone jerbal in etale ko an, Ombudsman eo enaj pad ibben maron kein:

(a) non buki im aini aolep kein kamol ko, ilo pepa ak naan, im non kajitokini aolep armij ro einwot ri-kamol, einwot an Ombudsman eo watokke ekkar im eaurok non boke ak kajitokini;

(b) non karok bwe aolep kein kamol ko (mekarta ilo jeje ak naan) jen rikamol ro ren kommon elkin bok kalimur non kwalok mol, im bwe kalimur in en ejelok oktak jen eo boke iman juon jikin ekajet ilo ien lelok kamol, im bwe en kommon kalimur in iman juon opija eo komarone jen ibben Ombudsman eo non an lelok kalimur non kajjo ian ri-kamolro;

(c) non kur jabrewot armij eo ej jokwe iloan Republic in non an lelok ak kadrelone jabrewot pepa in kamol k oak men ko jet rebed ibben, im non kajitokin armij in einwot juon ri-kamol ak kibele bwe en kwalok pepa ak jabrewot men ko rebed ibben.

(d) Ilo jab kajekdron jabrewot ian eon ko ilo rule ko ikijien kein kamol ko, ko im ewor kitier, non kadrelone jabrewot kein kamol ko, ilo jeje ak naan, ko im rejamin maron in drelon ilo abonono ko im bwod ko nae kien ak ko jet;

(10) Ombudsman eo emaron kommani edro ko an iumwin paragraph (8) ilo Section in kin e make ak ilo an kappeik officer ro an Public Service, ro im rej ilalin, ilo aer jerbali umwin karokko an ak jerbal ko jet im ej kappeer kaki.

(11) Ombudman eo enaj report non Nitijela eo iet tata juon alen ilo yio otemjej elane ej kwelok ilo regular session ko an ilo watok wewin an kommon jerbal ko an iumin karok an Article in.

(12) Ilo an kommone jerbal ko an, Ombudsman eo enaj jamin bok an kabilok jen bar jabrewot ra an kien ak armij, ak enaj make beek wewin an jerbal.

Oktak Ko Rej Aikuj Kommon:

Article XII, Section 2, paragraph 2 eo ej oktak bwe en kenono einwot in:

(2) Paragraph (1) ilo Section naj aikuij kojerbale non:

(a) Council eo an Iroij;
(b) President im Vice-President eo;
(c) Nitijela eo;
(d) Speaker im Vice-Speaker eo;
(e) Cabinet eo;
(f) Supreme Court eo;
(g) High Court eo;
(h) Traditional Rights Court eo;
(i) Judicial Service Commission eo;
(j) Public Service Commission eo;
(k) Auditor-General eo;
(l) Ombudsman eo;
(m) Chief Secretary eo;
(n) Attorney-General eo;
(o) Secretary eo an Finance.

Proposal No. 18D3- Article VII, The Public Service, *is amended by adding a new Section 12. Ombudsman, to read as follows:*

Section 12. The Ombudsman.

(1) *The Speaker shall nominate and, with the approval of the Nitijela, signified by resolution, the President shall appoint an Ombudsman of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

(2) *The Ombudsman shall hold office during good behavior until he reaches the age of 72 years, unless, in the case of an Ombudsman who is not a citizen of the Republic, the Ombudsman has been appointed for a term of one or more years.*

(3) *The Ombudsman may at any time resign his office by writing signed by him, addressed to the Speaker; but he shall not be removed or suspended from office except on the like grounds and in the like manner as a judge of the High Court or of the Supreme Court.*

(4) *If the office of Ombudsman is vacant, or it appears that the Ombudsman is for any reason unable to perform the functions of his office, the Speaker shall nominate and the President shall appoint an Acting Ombudsman; and the Acting Ombudsman shall continue to perform those functions until a new Ombudsman is appointed and assumes office, or, as the case may be, until the Ombudsman is again able to perform the functions of his office.*

(5) *A person who has held office as Ombudsman shall not be eligible for appointment to any other office in the service of the Republic within a period of 3 years after ceasing to hold the office of Ombudsman.*

(6) *The Ombudsman must be a person qualified by education, experience, and character to discharge the functions of the Ombudsman.*

(7) *The compensation of the Ombudsman shall be specifically prescribed by Act.*

(8) *In addition to the other duties and powers conferred on him by law, the Ombudsman shall investigate and may prosecute any fraud, misuse of public funds, misconduct in office, abuse of office, bribery, corruption, or other ethical conduct contrary to law by elected or high officials.*

(9) *In the course of his investigation, the Ombudsman shall have the following powers:*

(a) *to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, and to examine all such persons as witnesses, as the Ombudsman may think it necessary or desirable to procure or examine;*

(b) *to require the evidence (whether written or oral) of any witness to be given on oath or affirmation, such oath or affirmation to be that which*

is required of the witness if he were giving evidence in a court of law, and to administer or cause to be administered by an officer authorized in that behalf by the Ombudsman an oath or affirmation to every such witness;

(c) to summon any person residing in the Republic to give evidence or introduce any document or other thing in his possession, and to examine him as a witness or require him to produce any document or other thing in his possession;

(d) notwithstanding any of the provisions of the rules of evidence in force, to admit any evidence, whether written or oral, which might be inadmissible in civil or criminal proceedings.

(10) The Ombudsman may exercise his responsibilities under paragraph (8) of this Section either in person or through officers of the Public Service who are subordinate to him, acting in accordance with his general or special instructions.

(11) The Ombudsman shall report at least once annually to the Nitijela, at its regular session, on the performance of his functions under this Article.

(12) In the exercise of his functions, the Ombudsman shall not receive any direction from the President, the Cabinet or from any other authority or person, but shall act independently.

Consequential Amendment:

Article XII. Section 2, paragraph 2 of the Constitution is amended to read as follow:

Section 2. ***Classification of Amendments.***

(2) Paragraph (1) of this Section shall apply to:

(a) the Council of Iroij;
(b) the President and Vice-President;
(c) the Nitijela;
(d) the Speaker and the Vice-Speaker;
(e) the Cabinet;
(f) the Supreme Court;
(g) the High Court;
(h) the Traditional Rights Court;
(i) the Judicial Service Commission;
(j) the Public Service Commission;

(k) the Auditor-General:
(l) the Ombudsman;
(m) the Chief Secretary;
(n)the Attorney-General;
(o) the Secretary of Finance.

ELMOKOT NO.19D2

Elmokot 19D2, Article IV, Raan Kommon Kien eo, Section 4, Ro Remaron in Jibarek, ej oktak ilo an kobatok juon paragraph (3) kaal eo im ej walok einwot in:

(3) Bwe jabrewot armij en maron in juon rijibarek ej aikuj wor an maron ion bwirej ilo ien eo ej lotak im ej aikuj juon natural born citizen.

Oktak Ko Rej Aikuj Kommon:

Article XIV, Men KoJabrewot, Section 1, Melelein Naan ko, ej oktak ilo an kobalok naan kein be en kenono einwot in:

"natural born citizen" melelein juon armij eo, ilo tore eo ej lotak tok, ewor an jowi ikijien jinen ak jemen im ej juon citizen ekkar non subparagraph (a) ilo paragraph (2) ilo Section 1 in Article XI.

Proposal 19D2, Article IV, The Legislature, Section 4, Qualifications of Candidates, *is amended by adding a new paragraph(3) to read as follows:*

(3) Any person who is qualified to be a candidate must have land rights by birth and be a natural born citizen.

Consequential Amendments:

Article XIV, General, Section 1, Definitions, is amended by adding the following definition:

"natural born citizen" means a person who, at the time of birth, has a jowi from his mother or father and is a citizen pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of Section 1 of Article XI.

ELMOKOT NO. 21

Elmokot21: Article IV, Raan Kommon Kien eo, Section 2, Uan Nitijela eo, paragraph (1), ej oktak ilo kobailok "Enen Kio", bwe en kenono einwot in:

"... Narikrik, Erikub, Jemo, Taka, Bikar, Bokak, Enenkio, Rongrik im Ailinginae naj kajojo iairro koba ilo bukin in ekalel eo, eo im ebaake tata ekkar non manit ak jabrewot karo kim lajrak ko ion bwirej.

***Proposal No. 21- Article IV, The Legislature, Section 2, Membership of the Nitijela, paragraph (1)**, is amended to include "Enen Kio", and to read as follows:*

". . . Narikrik, Erikub, Jemo, Taka, Bikar, Bokak, Enenkio, Rongrik and Ailinginae shall each be included in the electoral district with which it is most closely associated, pursuant to the customary law or any traditional practice."

ELMOKOT NO.24

Elmokot No. 24, Article III, Council an Iroij: Non ukot paragraph (2) non kobaiklok nan kein "Enewetak im" iman in nan in "Ujelang" ijoko jabrewot ej walok nan in "Ujelang" ilo section in bwe en walok einwot in "Enewetak im Ujelang".

Article III, Section 1(2), ej oktak einwot in:

Section 1.Council an Iroij.

(2) Council an Iroij enaj ejaak kin 5 ro rekkar jen bukon in ekaleel ko ilo Ralik Chain im 7 ro rekkar jen bukon in ekaleel ko ilo Ratak Chain i1o Republic in ro keletir einwot in:

jen Ralik ejab koba Enewetak im Ujelang.....	4 Iroijlaplap
jen Enewetak im Ujelang.....	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Mili.....	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Arno.....	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Mejit.....	1 Iroijlaplap-
jen Majuro.....	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Airok (Maloelap).....	1 Iroijlaplap
jen Aur, Maloelap (im jab koba Airok), Wotje Utrik im Ailuk.....	1 Irotjlaplap
jen Likiep.....	1 Owner

Proposal No. 24 - *Article III, Section 2, Council of Iroij: To amend Article III, Section 2, by adding the words "Enewetak and" immediately prior to the word "Ujelang" wherever the word "Ujelang" appears in this section so that it reads "Enewetak and Ujelang".*

Article III, Section 1(2) is amended to read as follows:

Section 1.The Council of Iroij.

(2) The Council of Iroij shall consist of 5 eligible persons from districts of the Ralik Chain and7 eligible persons from districts of the Ratak Chain of the Republic selected as follows:

from the Ralik Chain excluding Enewetak andUjelang.....	*4 Iroijlaplaps*
from Enewetak and Ujelang.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Mili.....	*1Iroijlaplap*
from Arno.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Mejit.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Majuro.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Airok (Maloelap).....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Aur, Maloelap (excluding Airok), Wotje, Utrik and Ailuk.....	*1 Iroijlaplap*
from Likiep.....	*1 Owner*

OFFICIAL BALLOT PAPER

2023 REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS REFERENDUM

KAJJITŌK 1	**QUESTION 1**
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN MEḶEḶE KO ILO JEMĀNĀE EO IKIJJEEN ARTICLE XI SECTION 2(b) IM ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1: Eo ej karōk wōn ro rōmaroñ erom ri-Aelōñ Kein ikijjeen *registration* im kapen "bwe eaar jokwe ilo Republic eo an Aelōñ Kein iuṃwin juon tōre eo ejjab iiet ḷọk jān joñoul (10) iiō, im e ej jinen ak jemān juon ajri eo ej armej in Republic eo an Aelōñ Kein, im ej pālele ippān jinen ak jemān ajri eo, eo im jinen ak jemān ej barāinwōt armej in Republic in"? (Elmọkot 1&22D2))	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REGARDING ARTICLE XI SECTION 2(b) AND ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1: LIMITING ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP BY REGISTRATION AND RESTRICTING "that he/she has been a resident in the Republic for no less than ten (10) years, is the parent of a child who is a citizen of the Republic, and is married to the parent of that child, whose parent is also a citizen of the Republic"? (Proposal 1 & 22D2)
AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐ (Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓ **AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am) Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** across) ✗ in only **one box** to indicate your vote.	

KAJJITŌK 2	**QUESTION 2**
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN MEḶEḶE KO ILO JEMĀNĀE EO IKIJJEEN ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2): Ñan kalōñḷọk uwaan Council eo an Irooj ilo bukwōn ko jān Ratak Chain im kakobaik bar juon Iroojlaplap jān aelōñ in Mili Atoll? (Elmọkot 14)	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REGARDING ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2): to increase the membership of the Council of Irooj from the districts of the Ratak Chain to include another Iroojlaplap from Mili Atoll? (Proposal 14)
AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐ (Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓ **AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am) Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** a cross ✗) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.	

ELLEK LOK ÑAN PAGE NE JUON

KAJJITŌK 3	QUESTION 3
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN MEḶEḶE KO ILO JEMĀNĀE EO IKIJJEEN ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4(3) IM ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2(2), IKIJJEEN JIKIN EKAJET EO AN ṂANIT: Ñan ukot section in im leḷọk ñan Jikin Ekajet eo an Ṃanit maroñ eo ñan kōṃṃan jeṃḷọk ikijjeen tarpok ko rōjelōt ṃanit, ṃantin Aelōñ Kein, im jiṃwe im maroñ ko ioon bwidej ak jiṃwe im maroñ ko jej pedped ioon jabdewōt karōkan ṃanit im bwe case ko ren appeal nan Supreme Court eo nan ronjake appeal ko jen Court eo an Manit? (Elmọkot 16D2)	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - REGARDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4(3) AND ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2(2), THE TRADITIONAL RIGHTS COURT: To amend these Sections to confer original jurisdiction in the Traditional Rights Courts to determine controversies relating to the customary law, traditional practices, land rights and titles or other related customary or traditional matters, and to confer appellate jurisdiction to Supreme Court to hear appeal from TRC? (Proposal 16ND2)
AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐ (Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓ **AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am) Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** a cross ✗) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.	

KAJJITŌK 4	QUESTION 4
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN UKOT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3, IKIJJEEN ATTORNEY GENERAL EO IM ARTICLE VII. ÑAN KAKOBAIKI JUON SECTION 12 KĀĀL. IM ARTICLE XII, SECTION 2(2) IKIJJEEN OMBUDSMAN EO: Ñan ukōt subsection (3) ilo Article VII, ikijien an emakit eddo ko an Attorney General eo nan liakelok joraan ko re jelet fraud ak kakure jaan, kakure jaan ko an armej, komon joraan ak bwod ilo office ko, kakure office ko, wia buruon armij, jerbal ko rejab jimwe im mol, ak manit im wawein ko jet re jumae kakien ko, im rej itok jen ro emoj kalet ir ak ro rej jerbal ilo jerbal ko reutiej, im nan kadrelon juon Section 12 kaal ilo Article VII, nan na wawein jerbal ko an Ombudsman eo, jerbal im eddo ko an Ombudsman eo, im wawein kalet, jolok, jonan aetok in an jerbal im wonan?	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3, REGARDING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TO ADD UNDER ARTICLE VII, A NEW SECTION 12, TO ESTABLISH THE OMBUDSMAN: To amend subsection (3) of Article VII, by transferring the duties of the Attorney General to prosecute offences relating to fraud, misuse of public funds, misconduct in office, abuse of office, bribery, corruption, or other ethical conduct contrary to law by any elected or high officials, and to add a new Section 12 of Article VII, to provide for the establishment of an Ombudsman, the duties and responsibilities of the Ombudsman, the manner of appointment and removal, tenure and compensation? (Proposal 17D2) (Proposal 18D3)

OFFICIAL BALLOT PAPER

2023 REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS REFERENDUM

AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐

(Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓ **AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet

Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** a cross ✗) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.

ELLEK LOK ÑAN PAGE NE JUON

KAJJITŌK 5	**QUESTION 5**
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO – Ñan Ukōt Article IV, Section 4 IM ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1, ikijjeen ro rōmaroñ jibadek jea ko ñan Nitijeļā, ñan kakobaik juon subsection kāāl eo enaaj kōmlōt āinwōt in: "Jabdewōt armej eo ej maroñ juon ri-jibadek jea ko ñan Nitijeļā ej aikuj wōr an maroñ ioon bwidej ilo an ļotaktok." "Armej in Ṃajeļ" ej meļeļein juon armej eo ilo tōre eo ej ļotak, eaar wōr an jowi an jinen ak jemān im ej juon armej in Aelōñ Kein ekkar ñan paragraph 2 subparagraph (a) Section 1 in Article XI? (Elmoṃkot 19D2)	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, AND ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1, relating to qualifications of Nitijela candidates by adding a new subsection to read as follows: "Any person who is qualified to be a candidate must have land rights by birth and be a natural born citizen." "natural born citizen" means a person who, at the time of birth, either his/her mother or father has a jowi and is a citizen pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of Section 1 of Article XI? (Proposal 19D2)

AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐

(Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓ **AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am)

~~Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** a cross ✗) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.~~

KAJJITŌK 6	**QUESTION 6**
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN MEĻEĻE KO ILO JEMĀNĀE EO IKIJJEEN ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2(1): Ñan kakobaik Āneenkio bwe en āinwōt ṃōttan wōt Bukwōn in ekāālel eo epaak tata ilo Republic eo an Aelōñ Kein eo im jidikin enaaj konono āinwot in: "...Ṇadikdik, Edkup, Jemọ, Tōke, Pikaar, Bokaak, Ān eenki o , Roñdik, im Aelōñinae kajjojo iaer naaj ekkejeļļọk wōt ippān Bukwōn in ekkāālel eo im epaake tata ekkar ñan kien-ṃanit ak jabdewōt imminene ko ad."?(Elmokot 21)	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REGARDING ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2(1): by including Āneenkio Island as part of the electoral district with which it is closely associated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to read, in part, as follows: ". . . Ṇadikdik, Ādkup, Jemọ, Tōke, Pikaar, Bokaak, Āneenkio, Roñdik and Aelōñinae shall each be included in the electoral district with which it is most closely associated, pursuant to the customary law or any traditional practice."? (Proposal 21)

SPECIMEN

AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐

(Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein √ **A K X** ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am)

Place one mark (either a checkmark √ **OR** a cross **X**) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.

ELLEK LOK ÑAN PAGE NE JUON

KAJJITŌK 7	**QUESTION 7**
KWŌJ KE ERRĀ ILO KŌWEEPPĀN OKTAK KO ÑAN KŌṂṂAN KAKKOBABA ILO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EO AN 2017 EO ÑAN MEḶEḶE KO ILO JEMĀNĀE EO IKIJJEEN ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2): Ñan kakobaik naan kein "Enewetak im" iṃaan in wōt "Ujelang" im ijoko jabdewōt ej waḷok ilo section in bwe en kōnono āinwōt in Enewetak im Ujelang"? (Elmọkot 24)	DO YOU APPROVE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REGARDING ARTICLE III, SECTION 1(2): by adding the words "Enewetak and" immediately prior to the word "Ujelang" and wherever the word "Ujelang" appears in this section so that it reads "Enewetak and Ujelang"? (Proposal 24)
AET/YES ☐ **AK/OR** JAAB/NO ☐ (Likūt juon iaan kokalle kein ✓**AK** ✗ ilo juon iaan bok kein nan kalikare kelet eo am) Place one mark (either a checkmark ✓ **OR** a cross ✗) in only **one box** to indicate your vote.	

SPECIMEN