

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CAMBRIDGE VOTERS DEFEAT CITY CHARTER  
AMENDMENT FOR OPEN PUBLIC FACILITIES

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND, October 2,- Cambridge voters defeated a city charter amendment today which would have required service to Negroes in restaurants, motels and hotels.

The decision, 1,994 votes "against" to 1,720 votes "for" raised the possibility that demonstrations in this Eastern Shore community of 12,000 would be renewed. National Guard troops have been garrisoned here since July because of violence which erupted during demonstrations.

In the all-Negro Second Ward, the vote was 587 in favor of the amendment and 32 against, Associated Press reported. Forty percent of the 1,535 registered Negro voters cast ballots, AP stated. While in white wards nearly 76 percent of those registered voted.

Mrs. Gloria Richardson, head of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee opposed participation in the referendum. She said public accommodations are a right inherent in citizenship and should not be subject to a vote.

Mayor Calvin W. Mowbray said, " We'll have to start all over again, so to speak." The mayor, the city council members and many civic leaders had campaigned for the amendment. They said they feared that Cambridge would suffer economically from renewed demonstrations.

"The measure was defeated largely in the Fourth Ward, a low-income white section where the Dorchester County Business and Citizens Association had been particularly active in its campaign against the measure. The vote in the Fourth Ward was 670 against and 157 in favor," the AP dispatch stated.