

Reference:

Article I, Section 16

Ballot Title:

Rights of Victims of Crime

Ballot Summary:

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to grant victims of crime, and the next of kin of homicide victims, the qualified right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings.

Full Text:

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.--

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime was committed. If the county is now known, the indictment or information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties he will be tried. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.