



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 481 -- ELECTION LAW --
DEADLINE FOR SELECTION OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Sponsor: Delegate Barve

February 2, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

House Bill 481 – Election Law – Deadline for Selection of Lieutenant Governor would repeal the existing constitutional requirement that a gubernatorial candidate must select his or her running mate at the time that he/she files their candidacy.

Instead, a candidate seeking a nomination for governor in a primary election would be required to select a running mate no later than 21 days after the primary election. If a candidate is seeking a nomination for governor outside of the primary election process, he or she would still be required to designate a running mate at the time of filing for office.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) began promoting this change following the 2018 primary election, after an impressive group of gubernatorial candidates and others seeking office were eliminated from consideration for the post of lieutenant governor due to the current filing requirement. Requiring a gubernatorial candidate to make a declaration of his or her running mate at the time of filing candidacy papers eliminates other candidates who run for governor or unsuccessful candidates for federal or state legislative offices or county executive or legislative offices from being considered for the job of lieutenant governor.

While candidates for lieutenant governor are qualified in their own right, adding the unsuccessful gubernatorial candidates and other unsuccessful federal, state and local candidates to the list of potential lieutenant governor candidates would provide the primary election nominee with an opportunity to add specific expertise and experience, balance the party's ticket, demonstrate a willingness to embrace divergent policy positions, forge party unity, and present the strongest team. This change would benefit either of the major parties that has a contested primary election.

The GBC encourages the committee to consider this common-sense legislation. Changing the timing of the selection of the lieutenant governor candidates would be a positive step to ensure highly qualified candidates for Maryland's top elected positions.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 481.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org