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Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 15th, 2023

The Honorable Brain Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: SB 287 – State Board of Elections – Municipal Elections – Publication of Results on Website

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chairman Feldman and fellow committee members,

SB 287 simply requires that 30 days after election results are certified, a municipality must email over an electronic copy of the election results to the State Board of Elections.

Instead of requiring the SBE to create an online portal for the municipalities to upload the results (as stated in the current draft of the bill and in the Fiscal & Policy Note), the SBE has requested that the results just be emailed over to them and they will publish the results on their website where they will be organized by election year and then the name of the municipality. As a result, this bill will not increase general fund expenditures at all.

There are 157 municipalities in the State of Maryland, some large and some small, small urban and some rural. In any given year, there are dozens of elections taking place for Councilmembers, Aldermen, Mayors, and even a Burgess.

Unfortunately, it is not easy to find past municipal election results. For the most part, an individual has to search a local newspaper's online archives to find past municipal election results but this is getting more and more difficult as local newspapers shut down, get bought, or put up paywalls. Some municipalities put up their election results on their website but those typically go down by the time the next election comes around.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 287 to allow for a central online hub for the voters of Maryland to have easy access to current and past Municipal election results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Gallion".

Senator Jason Gallion