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SENATE BILL 287 State Board of Elections – Municipal Elections – Publication of Results on Website Position: SUPPORT

February 14, 2023

Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: Senate Bill 287 – Written Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I write in support of Senate Bill 287 with the amendments offered by the Maryland Municipal League (MML). Senate Bill 287 will make the results of past municipal elections more readily available to the public, thereby increasing transparency. Presently, the State Board of Elections website contains the primary and general election results for county, state and federal elections, but does not include the results of past municipal elections, except for Baltimore City, Cumberland and Hagerstown. There are 157 municipalities in Maryland, and it can be very challenging for a member of the public to find past election results for a particular municipality, especially as local newspapers and their associated websites with searchable archives continue to disappear. Having a centralized online location managed by the State Board of Elections for the voters of Maryland to find past municipal election results is simply good government at work, and therefore, I encourage you to support Senate Bill 287 by issuing a favorable committee report.

Thank you,

Daniel E. Hoff

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