

**Witness:** Katherine Strauch Sullivan  
**Jurisdiction:** Baltimore County  
**Bill:** **HB0333** Election Law - Election Disinformation on Large Social Media Platforms and Influence Related to Voting

**Sponsors:** Delegates [Rosenberg](#)

**Position:** HB 333 has the potential to infringe on the first amendment rights of citizens who raise questions regarding election processes or outcomes.

The bill defines "election disinformation" as "INCORRECT OR MISLEADING INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTION PROCEDURES, ELECTION RESULTS, OR VOTING RIGHTS IN THE STATE."

The past three years have seen an alarming trend in government officials pushing to punish citizens for disagreeing with them. The release of the twitter files alone should give everyone on the committee pause in supporting any form of government censorship. The big question and “slippery slope” is *Who decides what qualifies as “disinformation”*? Is it simply anything the government claims is disinformation? Because we all witnessed how that metric did not serve us with respect to the lab leak, the “effectiveness” of vaccines and social distancing, and, possibly most relevant to this particular bill, the “baseless claims” of election misconduct. All three of those claims were relentlessly censored and threat of punishment for daring to speak of these issues was used as a cudgel to silence citizens. Yet, over time, evidence emerged which supported these claims and proved them to be true.

For hundreds of years, America has served as a beacon for the free flow of ideas and uncensored conversation. Citizens have the right to have open and honest conversations in the public square which should include raising questions about election processes and outcomes. If these concerns are unfounded, the State Board of Election should focus their energy on releasing public statements proving these concerns are unfounded. They should treat this moment as an opportunity to re-commit themselves to transparency. HB0333 will do nothing to stop election disinformation. Instead, it only serves to attack those people who raise concerns rather than transparently address the concern and put the skepticism to rest.

Vote NO on HB0333.

Kate Sullivan  
Baltimore County