

# Support the Ballot Petition Modernization Act HB 1109/SB 1029

## Sign On To Letter Of Support

The [Ballot Petition Modernization Act](#) has been introduced to the Maryland General Assembly for the 2024 session. The House Bill ([HB1109](#)) is Sponsored by Delegate Sheila Ruth. The Senate Bill ([SB 1029](#)) is sponsored by Senator Jill Carter.

Signing a petition to put an independent candidate, a small party, a local charter amendment or a state referendum on the ballot is a right all Maryland voters have. Currently voters provide their name, address and signature via handwriting on paper forms. These forms then have to be read by State and Local Board of Elections staff, and if any handwriting is difficult to read or does not exactly match the information in the state voter database, a voter's signature can be thrown out.

This legislation makes it easier and more accessible for voters to exercise this right by allowing for electronic signatures on petitions, and clarifying the administrative processes by which the state and local boards evaluate submitted petitions. Electronic signatures were allowed by the State Board of Elections during the COVID State of Emergency. State Board of Elections Administrator Jared Demarinis has described electronic signatures to the [Baltimore Sun as "successful"](#). Now it is time for lawmakers to make this common sense improvement permanent.

We ask our legislators to support the Ballot Petition Modernization Act

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Not shared

\* Indicates required question



**Individual Signers**

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**Who is circulating this petition and why?**

*This sign on letter is circulated by Andy Ellis as an individual. Andy has worked with the Administrators of the State Board of Elections and the bill sponsors since 2020 to advance electronic signatures and ballot petition reform.*

*This sign on letter will be shared with bill sponsors, included in Andy's written testimony, and the information provided will be for Andy to contact you with additional information about this legislation.*

