

SB1029_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

3/01/2024

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/1029 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Election Law - Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB#/1029, Election Law - Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)

This bill works to add additional security to processing and safeguarding voter data. It will establish greater management of the petition process to be followed by voters seeking to place an item on the ballot.

Maryland elections are secure! As reported in *The Daily Record* article “Tiny percentage of Md. voters cast two ballots in recent election, audit finds”, “More than 100 Marylanders voted twice in the 2020 election, representing a microscopic proportion of the state’s electorate... The State Board of Elections prevented nearly 1,400 voters from casting multiple ballots in 2020, and it caught those who did, later referring them to the Office of the State Prosecutor to potentially be criminally charged...the number of people who voted more than once in 2020... 106, according to the State Board of Elections... the number represents about 0.00003% of the state’s more than 4 million active voters.”¹

This bill will strengthen the management of our voter data and its use as well as how voters signing a petition to place an item on a ballot are verified. It will increase confidence in the processes used. It will combat misinformation and disinformation on voters and voting.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/1029

¹ <https://thedailyrecord.com/2023/11/03/tiny-percentage-of-md-voters-cast-two-ballots-in-recent-election-audit-finds/>