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**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0493 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting – Contests for Presidential Nomination in 2028**

**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#/0493, Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting – Contests for Presidential Nomination in 2028**

This bill, it must be stressed, is to implement a program in 2028, thus will have no effect on the election this year.

The organization RankedVote has evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of a ranked choice voting system. <sup>1</sup>The advantages of Ranked Choice Voting include:

- 1) Determines the candidate with the strongest support
- 2) Encourages civil campaigning
- 3) Reduces wasted votes
- 4) Eliminates the need for multiple elections.

While it may add some complexity to voting, a vigorous education campaign by the state and voter interest groups will negate that critique. Since ranked choice voting will eliminate the need for runoff elections with attendant costs for managing that process it will save money. There is no partisan advantage, rather it promotes candidates who will appeal to the broad spectrum of voters without identification with the more radical elements of a specific party. “Democracy’s legitimacy and strength derive from two key concepts: [consent of the governed](#) and [majority rule](#). Ranked choice voting is an approach that makes it more likely that the majority’s voice is heard.” While reporting of the results might face a short delay the candidate who comes out of the process is truly the choice of the majority of voters.

Ranked choice voting is being used in Alaska and Maine to great effect. Maryland should join in the implementation of this system to force candidates to appeal to all voters and not just their base. It enhances voters picking their representatives and not representatives picking their voters.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0493**

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.rankedvote.co/guides/understanding-ranked-choice-voting/pros-and-cons-of-rcv>