

Written Testimony for Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Compensation (HB1303)

February 23, 2024

Maryland General Assembly Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as written testimony for informational purposes in consideration of **(HB1303)**. In recent years the responsibilities of the Local Board of Elections Directors have greatly increased with the expansion of Mail in Ballot voting. Mail in ballots have to be processed in a time intensive process under direction of the local Board of Canvassers. Although the Directors on these Boards are not doing the work solely for the income, it is important that they be compensated fairly for their increased time commitment.

In context of the Board I am familiar with:

- **Prior to Mail in Voting**, the Local Board of Canvassers conducted their canvass in 3-5 standard work days (5-8 hours each) consistently in each of the Primary and General Elections.
- In the **most recent election cycle (2022)** the Board canvassed as follows:
 - Primary – 4 days ranging 9-12 hours processing approximately 11,500 ballots
 - General – 7 days ranging 8-14 hours processing approximately 22,000 ballots
- This Board's anticipation is that this method of voting will continue to grow in popularity as greater numbers of voters are opting to be on the permanent Mail in Ballot list.
- Note that I did not consider any data associated with the 2020 Election Cycle as it was clearly conducted in a most unusual manner.

I encourage you to consider this data from a smaller county (hovering around 100,00 registered voters) to create a more fair and equitable compensation for all counties in the State of Maryland. A Per Diem rate for the canvassing activities would be a perfect solution to an unknown and growing part of the process. Thank you for your consideration during discussion of **HB1303**.

I am representing myself as an independent individual providing information for consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

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