



*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 308 – Party Affiliation of Chief Election Judges**

First, I wanted to thank the Board of Elections and MAEO (*Md Assc of Election Officials*) for their support for this legislation.

Let me start with the problem:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Getting volunteers at each precinct to have equal number of election judges from the majority and principal minority parties, can be challenging, if not downright impossible, especially in deep blue or red precincts. (~23,000 judges)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Current law does not require precinct chief judges to be of differing parties, only the total number of judges. Chief judge is supervisor all others and in charge.

Therefore, this bill:

- 1) Strengthens our elections by requiring both precinct Chief Judges to be from different political parties, to the extent practicable, and
- 2) If not possible for a Chief Judge to be of the differing parties, then requires one must be of the majority or minority party, and the other to be someone not of the majority or principal minority party.
- 3) This ensures Maryland won't have 2 chief judges from the same party at a precinct.
- 4) Requires that all other election judges working under the Chief Judges have an equal number of judges from both the majority and principal minority party, to the extent practicable.

When not possible, current law allows unaffiliated and other voters to become election judges.

That is the bill, and I ask for a favorable consideration.