



Testimony - SB 342, Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipal Corporations  
Favorable  
House Ways & Means Committee  
March 25, 2025  
Terrence Cavanagh  
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Atterbeary & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 23,000 workers across Maryland. We wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill 342, the **Voting Rights Act of 2025**, which is a critical step toward ensuring fair and equitable elections in Maryland's counties and municipalities.

SB 342 establishes clear legal protections against election systems that dilute the voting power of protected classes, ensuring that all communities have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. By prohibiting election methods that impair the ability of minority groups to influence electoral outcomes, this bill strengthens democratic participation at the local level.

Key provisions of SB 342 include:

- Preventing election methods that weaken the voting strength of racial, ethnic, or language minority groups.
- Establishing a process for identifying and addressing polarized voting patterns that may result in unfair representation.
- Allowing legal action to enforce fair election practices when necessary.
- Providing courts with broad authority to implement remedies that address voting rights violations while respecting local governance structures.

This legislation is not only necessary but also long overdue. Across the country, voting rights protections have been challenged, making it more important than ever to establish state-level safeguards to uphold fair representation. SB 342 ensures that Maryland continues to be a leader in protecting voter rights and fostering inclusive democracy.

We respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on SB 342 and support its passage. Thank you for your time and commitment to ensuring fair elections in our state.

Terrence Cavanagh  
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500