



Testimony on S.B. 342

Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipalities

Ways and Means Committee

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Howard County

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck, co-facilitator Defend Democracy Team

Position: Favorable

I am submitting testimony in favor of Senate Bill 342 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is a 900+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving campaign finance and election integrity.

Indivisible Howard County strongly urges you to pass SB 342 to enact protections against racial vote dilution in Maryland.

Racial vote dilution occurs when electoral practices, such as at-large elections or unfair district maps, weaken the voting strength of voters of color, effectively denying them meaningful political representation. Currently, there is no state law preventing racial discrimination in local redistricting. Recent challenges to racially dilutive voting systems in Federalsburg and Baltimore County underscore the crucial need for these kinds of protections.

Protections against vote dilution, along with the rest of the Maryland Voting Rights Act package, will help ensure no eligible voter in Maryland is left behind at the ballot box.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 342.