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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB337: Local Boards of Elections Transparency

House Ways & Means Committee
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 1:00 PM

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) live-streamed their meetings for public accountability and public safety. Today, only ten still do.¹ There are no requirements as to how the LBEs conduct their meetings beyond the basic Open Meetings Act--no specifications about live-streaming or providing materials to the public. Maryland's election processes are fair and secure; inaccessible meetings only open Boards up to doubts and conspiracy theories.

[SB337](#) and [HB412](#) would simply expand relevant transparency requirements from the State Board of Elections (SBE) to our LBEs. As amended and passed by both chambers, it would require them to publish their Board meeting agendas, written public testimonies, finalized documents, and all relevant materials on their websites 48 hours before every meeting. LBEs would also need to livestream their meetings and maintain online records for at least five years.

Our Local Boards of Elections should be accountable-- and get credit for the diligent work they do to ensure our elections are carried out safely and impartially for all of Maryland's residents.

I urge a favorable report on SB337.

¹ Provides meeting live-stream: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, and Talbot Counties
No live-stream, provides agenda and/or meeting minutes: Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Prince George's, Somerset, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City
Open meetings, no live-stream, agenda, or minutes: St. Mary's and Cecil Counties
No live-stream, agenda, minutes, or open meetings (need permission to attend meetings): Queen Anne's County