

JHEANELLE WILKINS
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Vice Chair, Ways and Means
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 28, 2025

House Bill 201:

Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce **House Bill 201: Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections**, which would require local boards of elections to send an approved absentee ballot application to every eligible voter, 60 days before each statewide primary election.

During the 2021 Session, Senator Kramer and I sponsored a bill, House Bill 1048 and Senate Bill 683, that required the following; at least 60 days before the primary election in 2022 and 2024, the absentee ballot should be sent to all eligible voters in Maryland. House Bill 201 would help expand this opportunity for future elections in Maryland.

In the 2024 election, about 1/3 of Maryland voters chose to vote with an absentee ballot. Since the pandemic, more voters have requested to vote by mail compared to previous voting cycles. The fiscal note for House Bill 201 projects that with each election, a significant number of residents will continue to opt in to receive absentee ballots for future elections.

House Bill 201 will help ensure democracy in Maryland. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 201: Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins