

# Indivisible HoCoMD

## **TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

### **HB103 General Assembly - Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office**

#### **POSITION: Support**

**by: Christine Lemyze, Defend Democracy Team Lead, Indivisible Howard County**

**Date: January 28, 2020**

Indivisible Howard County supports HB 103 which proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly if the vacancy occurs more than twenty-one days prior to the filing deadline for the statewide election that is held in the second year of the term.

We strongly believe in fair elections and that voters should have the last word in determining who represents them in the legislature. When legislative seats become vacant in the first year of a four-year term, there is ample opportunity for voters to cast their votes in conjunction with the presidential primary and general election.

This process is now in place in Maryland for vacancies of the state attorney general, comptroller or a U.S. senator that occur in the first half of a term. It needs to apply to the General Assembly as well.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on HB103.