

ALONZO T. WASHINGTON

*Legislative District 22*  
Prince George's County

*Vice Chair*

Ways and Means Committee

Chair, Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 131  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3652 · 301-858-3652  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3652  
Fax 410-841-3699 · 301-858-3699  
Alonzo.Washington@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 375 - Campaign Finance Entities - Officers - Repeal of Voter Registration Requirement**

Thank you Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The purpose of HB 375 is to repeal the law that requires a campaign chairman, campaign manager, and treasurer to all be registered to vote in the State of Maryland.

As all of you know, the campaign process is one that is arduous, time consuming, and difficult. The first and most important step of any successful campaign is to surround oneself with people who are trustworthy, hardworking, and reliable.

One of the best parts of living in Maryland is its close proximity to other populous jurisdictions. Maryland is bordered by four states and the District of Columbia, and many Maryland residents are close friends with those who reside in those states.

Current law limits campaign officers to only those who reside in the State of Maryland – which I believe is an arbitrary and outdated rule. The vast majority of Maryland residents have family, friends, and professional colleagues who live outside of our state's borders. If a Maryland resident decides they would like to run for public office, this law severely limits the pool of candidates for their campaign team they can choose from.

For example: If a Maryland candidate for office lives in Allegany County, and a qualified campaign treasurer lives in southern Pennsylvania, they should be able to hire them. In fact, eighteen of Maryland's counties border another state.

This bill brings Maryland into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and is an effort to be responsive to our expansively connected world. HB 375 gives anyone who wants to run for office in Maryland the ability to create the best campaign team possible – without being limited by statute.

The amendment I have proposed simply specifies that this bill should only pertain to authorized candidate campaign committees.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 375.