

SB596

Support

Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Hours of Operation

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

I support this bill to open early-voting-centers at 8:00 am for all elections, not just for presidential general elections. In the past, (in normal years) Maryland's longest lines on election day have been first thing in the morning. Presumably, many people want to vote before going to work. Opening early-voting-centers earlier would help alleviate these Election Day lines. Note that extending early voting hours is a more cost effective way for expanding capacity than adding more machines.

Consider voters as customers of election administration. The customers have "voted with their feet" that they prefer to cast their ballots early in the morning. Please accommodate the voters' preferences and open early-voting-center polling places by 8:00 am for all elections.

Lynn Garland
Independent Advisor on Voting Systems Security and Accuracy
Bethesda, Maryland