

Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the work you do for Maryland.

A little of my background. I ran for St. Mary's County Commissioner in 2018 and it was an unsuccessful campaign. Although my opponent and I not only campaigned in our district, but because of a flawed system, we campaigned in the entire county and the entire county voted for us and he was elected.

Fast forward to today, my district, like other districts in the County are underrepresented because the elected County Commissioners and Board of Education Members are not as concerned with specific districts they reside, but are concerned with areas outside of their district within the County which leave specific under privileged districts underrepresented. Running for County Commissioner, I found that running a campaign for an entire county is not feasible nor does it make sense. An individual campaigning for one district to represent an entire county does not effectively work. The current St. Mary's County Elections system for County Commissioner and Board of Education silences individual voices of the nine districts within the county and replaces the voices with those of the majority party. This is undemocratic and leave voters unrepresented in the local government.

When Commissioners and School Board members obtain votes from the whole county, parts of the county are neglected.

The current system violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, Section 2 and The Maryland Senate can make a change now.

If officials are elected to represent their districts and not the entire County, it would make for a complete representation of County/District. District needs, experiences and voices would be heard of which the current system of being elected by an entire county prevents.

As stated earlier, I ran for County Commissioner and know first-hand of the flawed system and under-represented districts. You can change this flawed system now.

In closing, I am asking for a favorable report.