



BILL: SB0058

BILL TITLE: Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Membership

BILL SPONSOR: Senator Ellis

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: 2/18/21

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB0058

Represent Maryland is a non-partisan, all-volunteer group of Marylanders working to end corruption and protect democracy. SB0058 addresses a key entity in administering fair elections: the make-up of the Boards of Election in each county.

In a perfect world, we would prefer that these boards are nonpartisan and include unaffiliated and third-party representation. However, in lieu of that, we feel that they should represent the will of the local populace as these Boards are local entities, and that this should be clearly expressed in state law. Currently, the law is vague and leaves open the possibility of a local Board not to reflect the county's voting populace, which is un-democratic.

We feel SB0058 is a step in the right direction to strengthening our democracy and urge a favorable report out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-D7

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at www.RepresentMaryland.org
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer