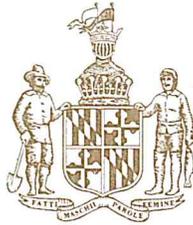


MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 918
COURTS – PROSECUTION FOR ELECTION
LAW VIOLATIONS - LIMITATION
MARCH 10, 2021

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 918 is a straightforward piece of legislation that simply changes, from three years to four years, the amount of time to institute the prosecution or to impose a civil fine relating to an election law offense.

Election law offenses are often very complex cases to investigate. While the State Board of Elections is able to handle minor administrative election law violations, they require the assistance of the Office of the State Prosecutor for cases involving significant amounts of complexity. The State Board of Elections makes every attempt to protect those who unknowingly commit violations and allows them to bring campaign finance accounts into compliance. These efforts to bring accounts into compliance, however, often last well over a year putting the Office of the State Prosecutor at a severe disadvantage in investigating egregious violations and bringing forward potential charges.

Additionally, the election law crimes investigated by the Office of the State Prosecutor are often masked to make their detection extremely difficult to ascertain within the current three year time frame. The added amount of time that this legislation would provide would allow prosecutors to better complete investigations. This would help them to better do their job of holding those accountable who intentionally and maliciously seek to undermine the integrity of our campaign finance laws and related electoral system.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 918.