

JHEANELLE WILKINS  
Legislative District 20  
Montgomery County

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PARLIAMENTARIAN  
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Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 350  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493  
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445  
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2021

**House Bill 1048 Election Law - Permanent Absentee Ballot List**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1048 Election Law - Permanent Absentee Ballot List**, which would create a permanent absentee ballot list so that Marylanders who choose to vote by mail can do so with ease.

This General Assembly has worked to expand the use of mail-in voting in the state, making voting more accessible and safe for all Marylanders. In 2020, we saw a record number of voters around the country, and the ability to vote safely was critical amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 1048 makes improvements to our mail-in ballot system by creating a permanent absentee ballot list available to every voter, helping to keep our elections secure and efficient.

HB 1048 requires absentee voting guidelines by the State Board of Elections to provide for a permanent absentee ballot list; allows all voters to be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status; and requires a voter to complete and submit information to apply for permanent absentee ballot status.

According to Pew Research Center, seventy percent of voters nationwide favored mail-in voting for elections, and states even saw an uptick in votes as voters had access to mail-in voting. To ensure further voter satisfaction in upcoming elections, I urge the committee to give a favorable report for **House Bill 1048**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins,