

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The current St. Mary's County Elections system for County Commissioner silences individual voices of the nine districts with 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 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. (Section 2 has primarily been used to challenge at-large election systems.) The General Assembly can make a change now.

Voters in St. Mary's County, Oakville (District 3) and Lexington Park (District 4) are underrepresented because the elected commissioners are not concerned with districts they were elected but are concerned with the County as a whole. 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.

I ran for County Commissioner and because of the current flawed system of being elected by the entire county, I lost the election. My district is now underrepresented because the elected commissioner is interested in other areas of the county and not the district he represents. The Flawed System. You can change the flawed system now.

In closing, I am asking for a favorable report.