

# REPRESENT MARYLAND

#FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

.ORG

**BILL:** HB0313

**BILL TITLE:** Election Law – Recall Elections

**BILL SPONSOR:** Delegate R. Novotny

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

**HEARING DATE:** February 8, 2022

## Testimony for HB0313

Represent Maryland believes in people-powered democracy at all levels of government, and therefore we support the ability to recall an elected official before their term ends. In a country that claims to practice democracy, voters should have the right to remove an elected official whom they believe is not living up to their responsibility. This bill is well thought out, with a recall petition signature threshold that is reasonable to obtain but not so low that recalls will become a standard practice.

However, as recall can be a confusing process, we suggest that the text about the ballot language be amended to be affirmative, such as below:

FIRST, PRESENT A QUESTION FOR A VOTER TO ~~INDICATE A PREFERENCE TO  
RECALL OR TO NOT RECALL THE OFFICIAL WHOSE RECALL IS BEING SOUGHT;~~  
AND

INDICATE WHETHER THEY WANT TO KEEP THE PERSON CURRENTLY IN THE  
OFFICE IN QUESTION, OR REMOVE THE PERSON IN ORDER TO BE REPLACED BY  
SOMEONE ELSE.

SECOND, PRESENT A QUESTION FOR A VOTER TO INDICATE A PREFERRED  
CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED THE OFFICIAL WHOSE RECALL IS BEING SOUGHT, IF  
THE VOTER INDICATED A PREFERENCE TO RECALL THE OFFICIAL.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland  
Maryland Voter-LD07

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](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)  
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer