



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 8, 2022

Committee: House Ways and Means

Bill: HB 1283 - Election Law - Municipal Corporations - Voter Qualifications

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 1283, which expressly prohibits individuals who are not a U.S. citizen from voting in municipal government elections.

The State has largely authorized municipal governments to operate their elections in a manner that allows for changes to be made to fit the wants and needs of each individual community. As a result, municipalities have different eligibility requirements, election dates, and processes.

Municipalities in Maryland already have the authority to allow non-citizens to vote in municipal elections. In fact, several municipalities currently allow the practice and some have for many years. This bill usurps that local decision-making authority and mandates a one-size-fits-all framework for this specific aspect of voter eligibility.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 1283 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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