

Members of the Legislature,

I am testifying to express my support of SB0925. This past November, I served as an Election Judge in Frederick County. Fortunately for my assigned precinct, all of our assigned judges showed up in a timely fashion and no key positions were vacant. However, out of the approximately 12000 individuals that had signed up to be election judges throughout the county, over 200 did not show up for duty on November 8th. Having sufficient judges available is key to ensuring the smooth operation of elections and our democracy. Frederick County paid \$50 for the training session, and \$175 for election day, with chief judges receiving \$225. Raising this amount to \$250 would likely incentivize more judges to honor their commitment to serve, which will be badly needed for the next presidential election, where turnout is expected to be high. I would also suggest that the state work with county governments to better advertise this compensation, and perhaps consider making it tax-exempt to further incentivize participation. Thank you for your efforts in putting forth this bill, and I urge a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Kat Harper
Frederick County