

JUSTIN READY  
Legislative District 5  
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP  
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683  
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2023

**Senator Justin Ready**

**SB 733 – Carroll County – County Commissioner Districts - Alterations**

---

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Senate Bill 733 seeks to make small alterations to the boundaries for Carroll County Commissioner districts due to issues brought forward by the Carroll County Board of Elections. These concerns were not identified until after the full process of county, state and federal redistricting were complete in the Spring of 2022.

SB 733 is seeking to fix three main problems. First, voter privacy and secrecy of the ballot is at risk. Since our local redistricting process used census tracts to ensure communities were kept together but had to do that months before the state legislative districts were completed, some precincts in Carroll County have so few voters registered that it may be possible to identify how someone voted. For example, there are only six registered voters in 07-008. It would not be very hard for someone to identify how someone voted if only one or two of those residents vote by mail.

The second issue with the current map has to do with identifying polling places. Under Maryland law, physical polling places must be within a precinct or be in an adjacent precinct. Some of the current precincts are so small that it is impossible to find a polling place within the precinct boundaries. Additionally, the administrative office and warehouse does not have enough space to hold the voting equipment and supplies for every precinct (52) in the county. The county also does not have enough election judges to administer in-person voting at any more than 24 polling places.

The third and final issue is that having one ballot style per precinct results in more supplies for the election judges, an increase in the amount of ballot styles that must be printed, and a longer, and timelier, results reporting process.

Prior to redistricting in 2021, Carroll County had 36 precincts, but there are now 52. SB 733 seeks to merge eight precincts into neighboring precincts, reducing the amount and the operational workload for the county board of elections.

I respectfully request a **favorable** vote on Senate Bill 305.