

My name is Luka Saracevic. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0925, Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation.

During the 2022 Midterms, I volunteered as a Future Vote Ambassador. As a Future Vote Ambassador, I worked hand in hand with Election Judges who worked 17 long hours a day. Since I was under 16 I could only work 3-hour shifts, I ended up with the morning shift. I woke up at 5:15 to get ready for my 6 am start time. I worked for 3 hours at the door greeting voters and helping them through the process of voting. After 3 hours of face to face interaction with the public I was exhausted. I couldn't imagine working 17 hours from the 6 am start time to the almost 11 pm finish.

This bill would raise the minimum compensation for Election Judges to an appropriate amount for their efforts. Many of the amazing Maryland residents that spend their time volunteering have normal jobs. Many took days off, days they could spend vacationing or with their families, and they spent working the polls. I know that it is more than fair to compensate these people for their time and their efforts in making elections open to the public. Additionally, to secure polling staff for future elections, election staff must have an incentive to do this vital work.

Due to the efforts of the many poll workers, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0925.