



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

WILLIE FLOWERS; PRESIDENT

NAACP MARYLAND

Testimony In Support of HB-447

2/14/2023

Ways & Means

The Maryland State Conference (MSC) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strongly supports House Bill 447, Local Elections – County Commissioner – District Voting, requiring an election of a county commissioner to represent a specific district to be decided by a plurality of the votes cast within that district; and generally relating to county commissioner elections.

The NAACP works to ensure free, open, equal, and protected access to the vote and fair representation for every American at all levels of the political process. This bill ensures that in situations in which county commissioners candidates are supposed to represent a district, they are elected only by the citizens of their districts (rather than by the entire county). We believe that the citizens of each county commissioner district have the right to select who represents their interests without influence from voters outside of their district. The current system silences the individual voices of voters in specific districts, replacing their voices with those of the majority of the county. Those who champion democracy and voting rights must do

everything they can to strengthen it. This bill is one way the Maryland General Assembly can strengthen democracy in our state.

For these reasons, The Maryland State Conference urges the committee to issue a favorable report for House Bill 447.