



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 17, 2023

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HB643 – Information

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll County and the chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. MAEO represents the local boards of elections throughout the State of Maryland. I am writing today representing MAEO with information for HB643 - Election Law - Insufficient Number of Candidates on a Primary Ballot.

The proposed bill seeks to provide a 7-day extension for citizens to file for office after the deadline. However, MAEO understands the need for a well-coordinated election process and is concerned about the potential disruption to the State Board of Elections and local boards of elections. Preparing millions of pages of ballots, including multi-page ballots, is a complex process that requires a specific timeline. We don't want to risk any delays or challenges in the election preparation process.

We extend our gratitude to Senator Kagan for her efforts in ensuring a transparent and accessible election process for all citizens to participate in.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.