

February, 9 2023

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am in support of HB447. I am a native of St. Mary's County MD. I have witness the intended effect of the Jim Crow era policy of At-Large/ Majority Voting as a tool to disenfranchise the election of candidates of color and those candidates' favored by communities of color. I think It can be fairly stated under the present process a person can be elected and not receive one vote from the district/ Precinct in which they are a candidate from because of the process of At-Large /Majority voting. Most municipalities that have rejected the process recognize the unique gifts that each citizen brings to the voting process and the inherent lack of fairness in At-Large/ Majority Voting.

What is the danger of the majority rule?

The tyranny of the majority (or tyranny of the masses) is an inherent weakness to majority rule in which the majority of an electorate pursues exclusively its own objectives at the expense of those of the minority factions.

St. Mary's Co. like others across the land want to maintain a system that in its geneses was fraught with issues of exclusion and to embrace this 19/20 Century relic in the 21's Century is a betrayal to the phase;

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and endowed by the creator with certain unalienable rights.

It is my hope that with the passing of HB447 the light of equity that can be seen in the 21's century will begin to shine more brightly in St. Mary's County for all of its citizens.

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