

Town of Hampstead
1034 S. Carroll Street
Hampstead, MD 21074

February 9, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
Judiciary Committee

Re: Written testimony in support of HB509

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

As an elected representative of the Town of Hampstead, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 509, which will require the State Board of Elections to publish municipal election results on its website.

For residents of municipalities, the mayor and council members are their first tier of government with the closest reach. The decisions that municipal representatives make regarding infrastructure, economic development, and ordinances have the most direct impact on the daily lives of the residents.

It is quite contradictory that residents have much more difficulty finding historical election data for their representatives who are in the closest proximity. At a time when election integrity is repeatedly called into question, increased transparency of election data at all levels of government is of utmost importance to help restore the public's faith in one of our most important rights and civic duties.

Thank you for taking this matter into consideration for passage into law.

Sincerely,

Diane Barrett

Council Member
Town of Hampstead