



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 28, 2023

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

HB0951- Support

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 election throughout the State of Maryland. I am writing today to represent MAEO with information and support regarding HB951: Election Law – Election Officials and Workers – Prohibitions Against Interference and Disclosure of Personal Information.

MAEO is committed to ensuring Marylanders have full access to their ballots and to running our elections smoothly, openly, and fairly. The most valuable and limited resource we have at MAEO is our people. Our nonpartisan Election Judges work long hours during the election cycle, ensuring that the figurative gears of democracy continue to turn. However, being an Election Judge has come under scrutiny and election officials have been harassed at a much greater rate.

This targeted harassment includes the practice of disclosing personal documents online about our officials, a practice colloquially known as “doxxing.” Being doxxed can lead to not just online, but in-person harassment if the location of an official’s home, child’s school, or even their car and plate number is presented in a way to make them a target.

Election officials are dedicated to serving democracy and we accept public scrutiny as part of our job in order to have open and honest elections. This scrutiny does not, nor should it, extend to our homes, families, or our personal safety.

Thank you for your time today and we would like to extend our gratitude to Delegate Dana Jones for working with MAEO to propose this important piece of legislation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.

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