

Indivisible **HoCo** MD



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB0029 - Special Elections - Procedures and General Assembly Vacancies and Ties

Position: Favorable

by: Christine Lemyze, Defend Democracy Team Lead, Indivisible Howard County

Date: January 29, 2024

On behalf of Indivisible Howard County grassroots organization of 700+ members, whose mission is to elect progressive leaders and rebuild our democracy, I am writing in support of SB0029.

Indivisible Howard County supports SB29 which proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly, unless the vacancy occurs during the year in which the General Assembly is elected.

We strongly believe in fair elections and that voters should have the last word in determining who represents them in the legislature. Those decisions should not be left in the hands of a few Central Committee members.

For many years now, Indivisible Howard County has advocated for such a change which will bring more transparency and less cronyism to the process of filling vacancies in the General Assembly. We are encouraged by Senator Kagan's proposal and **urge a favorable report on SB0029.**

It is time to take decisive action and address this important issue.