



TESTIMONY FOR SB523

ELECTION LAW – POST ELECTION TABULATION AUDITS – RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

Bill Sponsor: Senator M. Washington

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Howard County

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck - Co-Facilitator Defend Democracy Team

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting testimony in favor of Senate Bill 0523 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is a 700+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving campaign finance and election integrity.

Although audits occur for every primary and general election, the longer they take the more likely some in the electorate may question the validity of the election results.

This bill authorizes the Board of Elections, in conjunction with local Boards, to conduct a risk-limiting audit immediately after the election. The audit requires a manual examination of randomly chosen voter-verifiable paper records or batches of records until there is statistical evidence that it would confirm the electronic vote.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.