



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chairman  
and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senate of Maryland  
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: **SB 0913** Approval Voting Authorized by County Government - **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

**Approval voting is a novelty** that treats an election as a popularity contest. It trivializes our very sacred right and duty as citizens to vote for that one person you believe is most qualified for the office.

Approval voting allows the voter to cast a vote for as many candidates as they wish for the same office. The winner is the candidate chosen most often. If you are voting for multiple people for each office at the county level, you are not making a choice.

Our **current election system** of voting for one person for each office, where the person who receives the most votes wins, works well -- the system is **not broken** -- it **does not need fixing**.

A **single election** could require a **ballot that utilizes two different voting methods**.

- The election for county offices is often on the same ballot as the election for state and/or national offices.
- County non-executive offices (Sheriff, State's Attorney, Judges, Orphans Court Judges, Clerk of the Circuit Court, School Board, etc.) will not use approval voting, further confusing voters.

Approval voting complicates the voting process. The bill's requirement for a voter education program validates the **confusing nature of approval voting**. This increases election costs, putting an additional burden on the taxpayer.

Allowing voters to choose multiple candidates for every office will increase the time each voter needs to cast their ballot. **Delays** will increase wait times at the polls, frustrating voters and possibly discouraging some voters to the point that they don't even come out to vote.

Please give **SB 0913** an **UNFAVORABLE** Report.

Sincerely,  
Ella Ennis  
Legislative Chairman