



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
and Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 0164** – Voter Registration List - Absentee Voters - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB 0164, which will require the Board of Elections to provide a list of voters who have requested an absentee ballot for an election upon the request of a candidate in that election.

The list must include the address of the voter. HB 0164 also requires inclusion of a voter's email address and telephone number when available. This information is extremely valuable to candidates, but particularly important for candidates for local office and for non-incumbents.

It will allow candidates to contact more voters to introduce themselves and provide information on their candidacy. Candidates for local office often do not have the funds necessary to mail literature to all voters to ask for their vote. The ability to contact voters via e-mail or telephone helps candidates increase name recognition and provide voters with relevant information. Equally important, those contacts increase voters' capacity to make an informed decision in identifying their preferred candidate for each office.

Competition in elections enhances democracy. Making it easier for candidates to contact voters will encourage more citizens to consider the feasibility of running for office.

Please give a **FAVORABLE** report to **HB 0164**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women