

JHEANELLE WILKINS  
Legislative District 20  
Montgomery County

Vice Chair, Ways and Means  
Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations  
Committee

Chair

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 131  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493  
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445  
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 13, 2024

**House Bill 1489:**

**Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections**

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce **House Bill 1489: Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections** which would require local boards of elections to send an approved absentee ballot application to every eligible voter, 60 days before each statewide primary election.

During the 2021 Session, Delegate Wilkins and Senator Kramer sponsored a bill, House Bill 1048 and Senate Bill 683, that required the following; at least 60 days before the primary election in 2022 and 2024, the absentee ballot should be sent to all eligible voters in Maryland. House Bill 1489 would help expand this opportunity for future elections in Maryland.

In the 2022 election, 1/3 of voters chose to vote with an absentee ballot. Since the pandemic, more voters have requested to vote by mail compared to previous voting cycles. The fiscal note for House Bill 1489 projects that with each election, a significant number of residents will continue to opt in to receive absentee ballots for future elections.

House Bill 1489 will help ensure democracy in Maryland. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 1489: Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary Elections**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins