

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony on SB 93**  
**Election Law – Absentee Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before Primary**  
**Elections**  
**Education, Energy, and the Environment**

**Position:** Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 93, which would require that local Boards of Elections send a mail-in ballot request form to eligible voters who have not opted into the permanent mail-in ballot program at least 60 days before each primary election.

According to the State Board of Elections, about 18% of voters who voted in the 2024 general election chose to vote by mail and almost 765000 mail-in voting packets were sent to voters. These individuals requested or opted into the permanent mail list since ballots were not automatically mailed to voters as they were in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the primary method of voting continues to be casting a ballot in person, the number of individuals choosing to vote by mail has continued to increase election cycle after election cycle. Proactively sending request forms to voters played a large role in the increase of those choosing to continue voting through this method.

The mail-in voting program has boosted participation in the previous two elections cycles and is absolutely essential for those unable to vote in person. SB 93 would maintain the practice of mailing request forms which will remind voters that they can conveniently and securely participate in our elections from the comfort of their own homes.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.