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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB323: Postage-Paid Registration

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:00 PM

In 2020, the General Assembly enacted [HB37](#), which mandated that mail-in ballots come with prepaid postage, reducing any economic barrier for voters.

Marylanders can register to vote online, at the MVA, at community registration booths, or in-person during Early Voting or on Election Day. However, individuals who register by mail using the [statewide form](#) are required to cover the cost of postage themselves, which was flagged for me by a Rockville constituent. According to the State Board of Elections (SBE), between January 1 and August 31, 2024, there were just 3,006 people who chose this method .

[SB323](#) would allow for mail-in voter registration forms to have pre-paid postage, effective June 1, 2025. The mailing address and indicia on the applications will belong to the SBE, which will forward the registration data to the appropriate county.

Closing this tiny gap will make registering to vote more accessible. This body has a long record of removing financial barriers to voting, and this extends that ethos to voter registration.

I urge a favorable report on SB323.