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

SB337: Local Boards of Elections Transparency

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

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) livestreamed their meetings for public accountability and public safety. Today, only ten still do.¹ Further, there are currently no transparency requirements for how the LBEs conduct their meetings beyond the basic Open Meetings Act-- no specifications about live-streaming or providing materials to the public. Maryland's election processes are fair and secure; inaccessible meetings only open Boards up to doubts and conspiracy theories.

[SB337](#) would simply expand relevant transparency requirements from the State Board of Elections (SBE) to our LBEs. As amended and passed by the House Ways & Means Committee, it would require them to publish their Board meeting agendas, written public testimonies, finalized documents, and all relevant materials on their websites 48 hours before every meeting. LBEs would also need to livestream their meetings and maintain online records for at least five years.

Our Local Boards of Elections should be accountable-- and get credit for the diligent work they do to ensure our elections are carried out safely and impartially for all of Maryland's residents.

I urge a favorable report on SB337 as amended.

¹ Provides meeting livestream: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, and Talbot Counties

No livestream, provides agenda and/or meeting minutes: Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Prince George's, Somerset, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City

Open meetings, no livestream, agenda, or minutes: St. Mary's and Cecil Counties

No livestream, agenda, minutes, or open meetings (need permission to attend meetings): Queen Anne's County