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—
Vice Chair
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—
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB543: "Partial Ballots"

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

Voters who arrive at the wrong precinct or have an incorrect address listed can still cast a provisional ballot, but only selections for contests that match their home address are counted.

On the other hand, if a voter insists on casting a ballot that doesn't reflect their Party registration during a Primary Election, it will first be put in the pile with other provisional ballots... and then completely invalidated. This results in the exclusion of their choices for all contests-- including the county's nonpartisan Board of Education.

This inconsistent blanket rejection in Primary Elections disenfranchises people, undermining participation in important nonpartisan contests.

[SB543](#) would ensure that ballots cast with any Party in a Primary are partially accepted, counting votes for Board of Education contests in which the individual is eligible to participate.

I urge a favorable report on SB543.