

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Center for Election Science, a leader in the implementation of approval voting, would like to express its support for **Senate Bill 342: Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipalities**. We fully support the legislation's effort to prohibit the imposition or application of a method of electing county and municipal leaders impairs the ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of the members' choice.

Founded in 2011, the Center for Election Science (CES) is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit focused on voting reform. CES seeks to empower people with voting methods that strengthen democracy. By implementing approval voting, which allows voters to pick all of the candidates they like on their ballot, we believe citizens will be able to more clearly and effectively express their support for candidates who truly represent their communities.

In our research, we have found that approval voting leads to more equitable and transparent outcomes. We also have found that elected officials that have won elections where approval voting was used were more representative of the communities they lead. To that end, we have attached to this testimony our recent report entitled *America Misrepresented* outlining our findings.

We look forward to continuing our work in Maryland with elections officials on the benefits of approval voting, and wholeheartedly support any efforts making elections more transparent and equitable for all voters. For those reasons, we urge a favorable report of this bill.

For more information on the Center for Election Science's work on approval voting, please visit: electionscience.org.

Sincerely,

Nina Taylor, MA
Chief Executive Officer
Center for Election Science
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