



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville**  
**SB 88 – Election Law – State Administrator of Elections – Municipal Elections**  
**SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. The Rockville Mayor and Council appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on SB 88. We are thankful to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation in support of municipal elections.

The Mayor and Council and the Maryland Municipal League jointly support SB 88 which explicitly authorizes the State Administrator of elections to enter into a memorandum of understanding with municipalities to work collaboratively to support the administration of the municipality's elections. This legislation is critical for the ability of all Maryland municipalities to hold elections in their communities.

While Rockville's election process is not impacted by SB 88, we endorse it in support of smaller municipalities across the State. For many years, we have procured the services of the State Board of Elections through a contract with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisor of Elections to access the State voter database, touch screen voting equipment, and vote tabulation equipment. Without this legislation, smaller municipalities and others that have not used these processes would be blocked from accessing these critical services and essentially precluded from administering elections. Rockville is very supportive of the opportunity for all Maryland municipalities to engage in a partnership with the State of Maryland to administer their elections.

SB 88 takes a major step forward to support and preserve municipal elections. By having explicit authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Elections, all Maryland municipalities can continue to administer elections. This legislation will help to ensure that municipal residents can vote for their local elected officials of choice, which is a hallmark of our American democracy. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide SB 88 with a favorable report.