

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony on SB 88**  
**Election Law – State Administrator of Elections – Municipal Elections**  
**Education, Energy, and the Environment**

**Position:** Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 88, which simply allows the State Administrator of Elections to enter into an agreement with municipalities to support the administration of that jurisdiction’s elections.

Under current law, municipal governments are responsible for administering their elections. They serve as our “laboratories of democracy” as they can implement reforms that we hope to see at the state level: ranked-choice voting, lowering the voting age, and more. The City of Rockville, for example, was the first jurisdiction to establish a robust vote-by-mail voting program in 2019, where they saw a 12% increase in voter turnout. The state learned from their program and later adopted similar provisions as we improved our mail-in voting process following the COVID-19 pandemic.

SB 88 builds on their efforts to establish voting processes that work for all. The State Administrator of Elections can assist with implementing these reforms to ensure they achieve their intended goal. The additional oversight would also help to ensure they run secure and accessible elections in the future.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report.