

Good Afternoon,

Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, my name is Lucas Roca and I am a Legislative Intern for Vice Chair Kagan, here as a proponent for Senate Bill 88.

This initiative aims to strengthen the overall electoral framework in Maryland by ensuring that all municipalities, regardless of size or resources, can conduct elections that meet consistent standards of fairness and accuracy.

When the State can't help any of the 157 cities and towns with their election administration, it creates disenfranchisement for the residents in Maryland. When these jurisdictions lack the necessary technology and experienced personnel, it can cause errors, decrease the number of poll areas for residents, and decrease the number of voters from particular districts.

With SB88, Local governments that struggle to meet the demands of election administration will benefit from the collaboration outlined in this bill. This can lead to cost savings, better-trained staff, and most importantly, a better experience for voters.

For the sake of upholding democracy, protecting voter rights, and ensuring every election is fair and efficient, I strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 88.

Thank you.