

## **FAVORABLE POSITION**

### **Maryland Senate Bill 0002: General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office**

*February 3, 2025*

**To: The Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2, which proposes a constitutional amendment to require that a special election be held at the same time as the regular statewide primary and general elections in the second year of the term to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly, provided the vacancy occurs on or before the date that is 55 days before the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy for the regular statewide election.

Currently, when a vacancy arises in the Maryland General Assembly, a special election is held separately from the regular statewide elections. This process can lead to increased costs and voter fatigue, as constituents are required to participate in multiple elections within a short timeframe.

By aligning special elections with the regular statewide primary and general elections, SB 2 offers several benefits:

- **Cost Efficiency:** Combining elections reduces administrative expenses and the financial burden on taxpayers.
- **Increased Voter Turnout:** Holding special elections concurrently with regular elections can lead to higher voter participation, ensuring that the elected representative more accurately reflects the will of the constituents.
- **Streamlined Electoral Process:** This alignment simplifies the electoral process for both voters and election officials, promoting a more efficient and effective democratic system.

I urge the committee to favorably consider SB 2. Implementing this constitutional amendment will enhance the efficiency of our electoral system, reduce costs, and encourage greater civic engagement among Maryland's voters.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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