



**Testimony to the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB0337- Elections-Local Boards of Elections and Boards of Canvassers-Open
Meeting Requirements (Local Board of Elections Transparency Act)
Bill Sponsor: Senator Kagan**

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Marna Brown-Krausz, Defend Democracy Team Member, Indivisible, Howard County

Date: February 26, 2025

On behalf of our 900+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of SB 0337. We believe that by providing access to information regarding the decision-making process that governs elections in communities, this bill will encourage civic engagement and restore public trust in the electoral process.

The bill, which adds to section 2-208 of the current Election Law¹, requires each local board to make publicly available on its website, within a designated timeframe, both meeting agenda and summaries of materials the local board will be voting upon. Live video streaming shall also be provided unless that requirement is not applicable in accordance with the Act. Each local board shall also maintain, for a minimum of 5 years after the meeting date, or in the case of the Board of Canvasser, 5 years after the completion of the canvass, a complete and unedited archived video recording of each open meeting or canvass for which the live video streaming was provided.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on SB 0337.

Thank you for your consideration.

¹ Similar provisions are proposed for Sections 11-301, -302(a) and -303(a) of the Election Law, regarding the Board of Canvassers, by repeal and reenactment, with amendments.