

**2025 SB0308 Testimony For 2025-02-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

**SB0308 – Favorable**

Honorable Senators

I support

- Requiring the election director of a local board of elections to designate chief election judges from certain political parties to each polling place except under certain circumstances; and
- requiring an election director who is unable to designate chief judges for a polling place at least 45 days before the start of early voting to make a certain designation in a certain manner.

As much as possible, efforts should be made to ensure that there are chief judges from each of the two major parties at each polling site.

Please enter a favorable report for SB0308.

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Legislative District 30B  
February 26, 2025

**SB 308 Senator Simonaire\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 308**

Chairman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 308 – *Election Law – Chief Election Judges – Party Affiliation*.

SB 308 would require the election director of a local board of elections to designate chief election judges from certain political parties to each polling place except under certain circumstances and would require an election director who is unable to designate chief judges for a polling place at least 45 days before the start of early voting to make a certain designation in a certain manner.

**SB308 - 2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stephen Feryus

Position: FWA



# Maryland Association of Election Officials

## Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 26, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **SB308 - Support with Amendment**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony – with suggested edits – in support of Senate Bill 308. Currently, local boards of elections (LBEs) appoint chief judges from the majority and principal minority political parties at each polling place, with flexibility when there are extenuating circumstances. Sometimes, it is necessary to appoint chief judges who are registered unaffiliated or with a third-party so that timely appointments cannot be made. This bill better aligns the law with current practices in designating chief election judges, while also addressing the operational realities faced by the LBEs .

Even though our judges are required to be nonpartisan during all election activities, across Maryland, LBEs strive to designate chief judges from different parties whenever possible, recognizing the importance of bipartisan oversight in maintaining voter confidence. They also work to maintain party balance among election judges, demonstrating a commitment to transparent and equitable elections. However, recruitment challenges and the need for balanced party representation—especially in areas with fewer available election judges—have required practical adaptations.

MAEO supports the inclusion of the "to the extent practicable" language in this bill, which provides local election officials with the necessary flexibility to recruit qualified individuals, including unaffiliated and third-party voters, for chief judge roles. This ensures that capable individuals are not excluded from leadership positions solely due to party affiliation.

To further strengthen the bill, MAEO proposes an amendment to allow chief judge and election judge appointments to reflect the voter registration composition of each jurisdiction. As Maryland's voter registration demographics shift—at varying rates across the state—ensuring that election judge recruitment aligns with these changes will help maintain a representative and sustainable election workforce while preserving bipartisan cooperation.

MAEO remains committed to fair and accessible elections. We appreciate the General Assembly's focus on the needs of local election officials and look forward to ongoing discussions on implementing this bill effectively while upholding election integrity.