

2025 SB0088 Testimony For 2025-02-05.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

Testimony For SB0088

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable decision for SB0088.

I support authorizing the State Administrator of Elections to enter into memoranda of understanding with municipalities to allow the State Administrator to work collaboratively with a municipality to support the administration of the municipality's elections.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
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410-336-9745
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February 5, 2025

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February 5, 2025

SB 88 - Election Law – State Administrator of Elec

Uploaded by: Joanne Antoine

Position: FAV

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.

MML - SB 88 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 5, 2025

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 88 – Election Law - State Administrator of Elections - Municipal Elections

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 88, which will allow the State Board of Elections (SBE) to continue supporting municipal elections via MOUs.

SBE and Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) have been working with municipal governments for decades to provide support for municipal elections where it makes sense. This arrangement was threatened in the fall of 2024 when SBE was unable to identify any legislatively derived authority to support municipal elections and ordered LBEs to discontinue any support as well.

SB 88 fixes this by simply allowing SBE to enter into an MOU with municipal governments.

This is emergency legislation. As you may know, municipal elections are happening around the year, and there are dozens coming up this spring. They need this legislation in effect ASAP to ensure there are no disruptions to our local elections.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee quickly provide SB 88 with a favorable report. For more information, please contact Justin Fiore, Deputy Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at justinf@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.

Municipal Elections SB88 Testimony (LAR 02_03_25).

Uploaded by: Lucas Roca

Position: FAV

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.

SB0088_FAV_City of Rockville_Election Law - State

Uploaded by: Monique Ashton

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 88 – Election Law – State Administrator of Elections – Municipal Elections
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. The Rockville Mayor and Council appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on SB 88. We are thankful to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation in support of municipal elections.

The Mayor and Council and the Maryland Municipal League jointly support SB 88 which explicitly authorizes the State Administrator of elections to enter into a memorandum of understanding with municipalities to work collaboratively to support the administration of the municipality's elections. This legislation is critical for the ability of all Maryland municipalities to hold elections in their communities.

While Rockville's election process is not impacted by SB 88, we endorse it in support of smaller municipalities across the State. For many years, we have procured the services of the State Board of Elections through a contract with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisor of Elections to access the State voter database, touch screen voting equipment, and vote tabulation equipment. Without this legislation, smaller municipalities and others that have not used these processes would be blocked from accessing these critical services and essentially precluded from administering elections. Rockville is very supportive of the opportunity for all Maryland municipalities to engage in a partnership with the State of Maryland to administer their elections.

SB 88 takes a major step forward to support and preserve municipal elections. By having explicit authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Elections, all Maryland municipalities can continue to administer elections. This legislation will help to ensure that municipal residents can vote for their local elected officials of choice, which is a hallmark of our American democracy. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide SB 88 with a favorable report.

Testimony - Municipal Elections.pdf

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

—
Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

—
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB88: Municipal Elections - Emergency Bill

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 2:00 PM

Maryland's 157 cities and towns conduct elections throughout the year. Dates, methods, and frequency are as varied as our municipalities.

The prior SBE Administrator engaged with the municipalities without the legal authority to do so. Our current Administrator prefers to act in compliance with State law.

[SB88](#) would authorize the State Administrator of Elections to enter into memoranda of understanding with municipalities, allowing for State support in municipal elections when possible.

Because it could apply to elections early in 2025, this is an emergency bill.

The amendment-- drafted in collaboration with SBE and the Maryland Municipal League-- would move the deadline for municipalities to request inclusion on the State ballot from 18 months to 9 months, allowing for additions in the 2026 Election.

I urge a favorable report on SB88.