

House Bill 215 - Ways and Means - FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 215, regarding ranked choice voting, a FAVORABLE report.

Ranked choice voting is the most intelligent way to choose a candidate. The people have more of a say under ranked choice voting. For example, in 2020 I could've given Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders my first and second slots. Then I could rank the others, which would've put Biden and Bloomberg at the bottom of my list. While I don't believe that Sanders or Warren would win a primary in moderate Maryland, perhaps one of my middle choices would've won, like O'Rourke or Buttigieg. With one of them, we wouldn't have dealt with the issues around Biden's age, and could have someone who's a better speaker and has more charisma than Biden, drawing in voters. I only voted for Biden in the general election because I didn't forget the evils of Trump. I would've preferred to vote for someone in the general election who was closer to my values, and who I could feel good about canvassing for. I'd like to vote FOR a candidate again, rather than AGAINST a worse candidate in the general election. Even if Biden won Maryland under ranked choice voting, I would've felt like it was the true will of Marylanders rather than someone who Marylanders felt bullied into because they were told was "the best choice" by the establishment.

Yes, I recognize that the Democratic candidate for the general election is the one who wins the most delegates in the primary, but I believe that ranked choice voting is going to become more popular as people throughout the country see the results from states that enact it. Let's be a part of that, and actually put forth a candidate who people WANT to vote for.

I urge you to vote "favorable" on House Bill 215. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD