



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0215

### Ranked-Choice Voting in Contests for Presidential Nomination and Certification of Election-Supporting Technology

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Fair

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Shore Progress

**Person Submitting:** Jared Schablein, Chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0215 on behalf of Shore Progress. Shore Progress (formerly LSPC) is a nonpartisan civic organization covering the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We are committed to building strong communities across the Eastern Shore by building the Progressive movement. We strongly support this bill as a critical step toward strengthening Maryland's democracy through improved election fairness and modernized election technology.

This legislation authorizes **ranked-choice voting (RCV)** for presidential primaries starting in 2028 and establishes requirements for the certification and periodic evaluation of election-supporting technology.

#### Why We Support This Bill:

1. **Fairer Elections:** RCV ensures candidates are elected with majority support, reducing vote-splitting and better reflecting voter preferences.
2. **Positive Campaigning:** Candidates must appeal to a broader audience, fostering issue-focused campaigns and reducing divisiveness.
3. **Voter Empowerment:** RCV allows voters to express their full preferences, ensuring their voices are more accurately represented in crowded presidential primaries.
4. **Modernized Technology:** The bill mandates regular reviews of election-supporting technology, enhancing election security, transparency, and voter confidence.
5. **Cost-Efficiency:** Implementing RCV alongside certification improvements streamlines election administration and aligns Maryland with national best practices.

This bill advances ranked-choice voting and prioritizes secure, modern technology, ensuring fairer elections and bolstering public trust in our democratic institutions.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.