

Genie O. Massey
19208 Betty's Avenue, Boonsboro, MD 21713
301-992-0355

January 28, 2025

House of Delegates Ways & Means Committee

Testimony in Support of HB0215 Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting in Contests for Presidential Nomination and Certification of Election–Supporting Technology

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) for Maryland's presidential election. I believe this reform is essential to strengthening our electoral process and empowering voters across our state.

RCV Empowers Voters: In my work with young people, I often hear frustrations about our current voting system. Many feel discouraged when forced to choose between candidates they see as less than ideal or worry their vote will be "wasted" if they support someone outside the two dominant parties. RCV addresses these limitations by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. This ensures that every vote counts and more accurately reflects the will of the electorate.

RCV Encourages Positive Engagement: By incentivizing candidates to appeal to a broader range of voters, RCV reduces divisive, negative campaigning and fosters coalition-building. As someone who works closely with community members, I know how important solutions-focused dialogue is in our democratic processes.

RCV Strengthens Representation: Our electoral system should reflect Maryland's diversity. RCV ensures that election outcomes align with the majority's preferences while encouraging a more inclusive process. It supports competition and empowers voters to express their choices without fear of unintended consequences.

In adopting ranked choice voting, Maryland would send a powerful message: **we are a state committed to innovation, fairness, and the empowerment of every voter.**

I respectfully urge you to support HB0215 and move our state toward a more representative and engaging democratic process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Genie O. Massey