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Vice Chair, Ways and Means Committee

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Chair Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 18, 2025

House Bill 945 - Election Law - Gubernatorial Primary Election - Date

Dear Colleagues,

House Bill 945 - Election Law - Gubernatorial Primary Election - Date would move the June 2026 Primary Election Date. The 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 30. Early Voting would be from Thursday, June 18, through Thursday, June 25. Unfortunately, these dates overlap with Juneteenth (Friday, June 19) and Father's Day (Sunday, June 20). These dates may also overlap with public school renovations, reducing potential polling places.

House Bill 945 would change the date of the Primary Election during Gubernatorial Election years from the <u>last</u> Tuesday in June to the <u>fourth</u> Tuesday. In some cases, this would not result in a change. In years when June has five Tuesdays, however, the election would be held one week earlier.

Moving to an earlier date would support our Local Boards of Elections by making recruiting election judges and student volunteers easier for both Early Voting and Election Day, which would likely increase voter turnout. Early Voting Centers will also be more readily available before Department of Recreation summer camps start.

This bill was requested by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

For these reasons, I urge your **favorable vote** on **House Bill 945 - Election Law - Gubernatorial Primary Election - Date.**

Sincerely,

Gheanefle Wilkins

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins