



## Prince George's County Municipal Association

*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Chair Vanessa Atterbeary,  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Room 130 Taylor  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Position: Oppose - HB680 - Municipal Elections - Voter Registration - List and Qualifications**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes on behalf of the 27 municipalities that collectively represent more than 955,000 residents, to share our **strong opposition to House Bill 680**, which would mandate changes to municipal election voter registration requirements and restrict voting rights at the local level.

This legislation represents an unnecessary state overreach into municipal governance. Maryland's municipalities have successfully managed their own election processes for generations, developing systems that best serve their unique communities and residents. The current framework allows municipalities to determine voter qualification standards that reflect local needs while maintaining election integrity.

Key concerns with HB 680:

1. Undermines local authority and municipal home rule principles
2. Creates unfunded mandate for municipalities to implement new registration systems
3. May discourage civic participation in local government
4. Disrupts existing municipal election processes that function effectively
5. Adds unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to local democracy

Maryland's municipalities already have established systems that enable community members to participate in local governance while protecting election integrity. This bill's mandates would burden local governments with additional costs and administration without demonstrating any actual problem that needs solving.

I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on HB 680.

Sincerely,

Mayor Celina R. Benitez

President, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)