

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3134
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB543: "Partial Ballots"

House Ways & Means Committee
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 1:00 PM

Voters who arrive at the wrong precinct or have an incorrect address listed can still cast a provisional ballot, but only selections for contests that match their home address are counted.

On the other hand, if a voter insists on casting a ballot that doesn't reflect their Party registration during a Primary Election, it will first be put in the pile with other provisional ballots... and then completely invalidated. This results in the exclusion of their choices for all contests-- including the county's nonpartisan Board of Education.

This inconsistent blanket rejection in Primary Elections disenfranchises people, undermining participation in important nonpartisan contests.

[SB543](#) would ensure that ballots cast with any Party in a Primary are partially accepted, counting votes for Board of Education contests in which the individual is eligible to participate.

This bill and its cross-file have each passed their chamber of origin.

I urge a favorable report on SB543.