



February 9, 2026

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of RepresentWomen to support the passage of s, which requires the state board of elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist in the election tabulation or auditing process.

The organization that I serve as Programs and Partnerships Manager, [RepresentWomen](#), tracks electoral outcomes for women in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting (RCV). Our overall mission is to increase gender balance in elected office and address the barriers women face in politics. **Ranked choice voting is a proven strategy that enables more women to seek and win elected office. Women hold 52% of seats in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting – almost twice the norm in places without RCV.**

SB236 would give local election officials the autonomy to assess the RCV electoral needs for their jurisdictions. Enacting the appropriate and trustworthy technology is imperative to maintain the integrity of any election. It's vital that election officials have access to the most reliable, cost-effective and necessary tools to conduct RCV elections.

In both theory and practice, RCV eliminates the barriers women face in plurality, or winner-take-all elections, creating more opportunities for women to run successfully. Our research finds that women have better opportunities to run in and win RCV elections because RCV eliminates the issue of multiple women candidates splitting the vote. RCV elections also provide an incentive for candidates to find common ground, because candidates are looking for “rank-me-second” votes from their opponents’ supporters, which in turn can lead to more civil campaigns. We also find that when voters can express their true preferences rather than vote strategically, more women win.

Here are a few of our resources that may be of interest:

- a [memo](#) on ranked choice voting & women's representation
- a [dashboard](#) on ranked choice voting and women’s representation stats
- a [toolkit](#) with additional RCV and representation materials



I ask you to consider RepresentWomen's testimony and vote Yes on SB236, as it would give the election officials access to the necessary equipment and technology to successfully facilitate and execute RCV elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely Yours,

Tamaya Dennard
Programs and Partnerships Manager

REPRESENT
WOMEN
Parity for Women in Politics

We, the undersigned organizations and elected leaders, urge your support for **SB 236, Election Law - Certification of Election, Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.**

We value and respect the work election administrators do at the local and state level. They are stewards of democracy and ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. Elections occur in our state every year and it is imperative that we equip administrators with the tools to do the work today and into the future.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Let us support the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly. **We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.**

Respectfully submitted by the following elected officials and organizations: