



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 236 – Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 11, 2026

SUPPORT

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of Senate Bill 236.

SB 236 proposes a comprehensive framework to ensure that election-supporting technologies used for elections in Maryland meet rigorous standards. The bill calls for the establishment of clear regulations for the review and evaluation of election-supporting technology, providing transparency and accountability throughout the certification process. Election-supporting technology in this bill includes technology that is compatible for rank-choice voting risk-limiting audit tools and software used for preparing, presenting, or reporting the results produced by a voting system. By emphasizing continuous oversight and structured evaluation, SB 236 aims to safeguard the integrity and reliability of Maryland's elections.

The City of Takoma Park has a longstanding history as an early adopter of ranked choice voting, having implemented the system in its municipal elections to enhance voter representation and strengthen democratic participation. The City strongly values SB 236, particularly as a jurisdiction that utilizes ranked choice voting in its elections. The adoption of advanced voting methods requires technology that is not only secure but also adaptable and trustworthy. This bill focuses on robust regulatory review will help guarantee that the unique needs of communities like ours are addressed, ensuring that our election systems can faithfully and accurately process ranked choice ballots and deliver results that reflect the will of our voters.

For these reasons, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 236 and urges its favorable consideration. The bill represents a proactive step toward strengthening Maryland's democracy, promoting public confidence, and maintaining the highest standards in election technology. We believe that these measures are essential to protecting the integrity of our local electoral processes and upholding the values of fair and transparent governance.

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