

HB 263/SB 100: Election Law - **Early Voting Centers - Bus Stops**: Please vote **NO** on this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 263/SB 100**, the proposal to require buses on fixed local routes to allow passengers to embark and disembark at the entrance of early voting centers located within one-half mile of the route.

While expanding access to the ballot box is an important goal, this bill raises serious concerns regarding election integrity, voter safety, and the neutrality of the voting process. First, it imposes new operational requirements on local transit systems that could disrupt existing schedules, increase costs, and create logistical challenges without clear evidence that the change will materially increase voter turnout. Mandating stops at designated locations near voting centers effectively alters routing and scheduling decisions that are traditionally made by local transit authorities. It also raises safety and accessibility concerns—particularly for elderly voters, individuals with disabilities, and families with children. Mandating bus stops directly at or near voting centers risks creating congestion, confusion, and increased difficulty maintaining secure perimeters—particularly during high-turnout periods. Election officials should be able to manage voting locations without external operational mandates that complicate security planning.

Second, Maryland already provides early voting centers during extended hours and multiple locations to facilitate voter participation. Voters who wish to use public transportation to reach polling places can generally plan their travel using existing fixed routes or seek other accommodations provided by local jurisdictions. Imposing a statewide bus-stop requirement could lead to confusion and unintended consequences for riders who rely on consistent transit service for work, school, and daily life.

Lastly, the focus of election-law reforms should remain on measures that strengthen ballot security, ensure accurate and transparent results, and promote confidence in the electoral process. Requiring transit systems to adjust their operations around voting center locations is a well-intentioned but ultimately impractical mandate that burdens local government services.

Protecting the integrity, dignity and security of the voting process is essential to a healthy democracy. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose **HB 263/SB 100**.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals