

February 23, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 727 (House Bill 1066)
Municipal Elections - Qualified Electronic Transmission Systems - Authorization for Use

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) is dedicated to promoting transparent, secure, and accurate elections at all levels. Senate Bill 727, Municipal Elections - Qualified Electronic Transmission Systems - Authorization for Use (cross-filed as House Bill 1066), addresses a common challenge for municipalities: low voter participation and access.

This legislation would provide Maryland municipalities with a secure and innovative tool to enhance voter participation. Furthermore, it would provide the entire state with valuable information and best practices.

Many municipalities experience diminished voter turnout in municipal elections, even though the same constituents participate in county and state elections. Multiple factors contribute to low turnout, including accessibility, awareness, competitiveness, and timing. HB 1066 could potentially mitigate low participation by authorizing secure mobile voting in municipal elections.

The American Bar Association (ABA) notes that mobile voting has been successfully piloted across the United States, citing a tripling of turnout in King County, Washington, as one example¹. The ABA recommends piloting mobile voting systems with smaller groups of voters while rigorously maintaining strong security and voter integrity protocols.

In conjunction with ranked choice voting, which the ABA found to increase turnout and decrease negative campaigning², Maryland municipalities have an opportunity to lead the way in strengthening democracy by making it more accessible and representative for a broader electorate.

We strongly urge a favorable report for SB 727 and encourage municipalities to explore innovative tools to enhance participation and representation.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Whittaker
Executive Director

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¹ Addressing Negative Partisanship with Mobile Voting
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/election_law/american-democracy/our-work/addressing-negative-partisanship-mobile-voting/

² What We Know About Ranked Choice Voting, Updated for 2025
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/election_law/american-democracy/our-work/what-we-know-about-ranked-choice-voting-2025