



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**SB 845, Maryland Voter Registration List Accuracy and Integrity Act**

**POSITION: Oppose**

**FROM: Linda Kohn, President**

**DATE: March 4, 2026**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) believes that election systems must be accountable and the State Board of Elections should also have the legal authority and funding to develop and maintain a centralized, computerized voter registration list. SB 845 would amend the process for holding local Boards of Elections accountable for updating the voter registration list when reports are received to remove deceased voters.

In Maryland, reports to update voter files come in from multiple sources—Department of Health, state and federal courts, US Postal Service, jury commissioners and the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) that helps share data between participating states. Reports come in continuously, as frequently as monthly. Information is shared with local Boards of Elections who help update the statewide voter registration database (MDVOTERS). A 2023 report from the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) recommended that the State Board of Elections (SBE) strengthen its procedures to identify deceased or duplicative voters; in October 6, 2025, OLA reported that SBE had “fully addressed” the report’s findings.

Someone voting on behalf of a deceased voter is fraud. The Heritage Foundation’s “Election Fraud Map,” reports a sampling of proven cases of election fraud going back to 1982 (data were last updated in December 2025). Their information reports 10 cases of documented voter fraud in Maryland that occurred between 2012 and 2023.

While LWVMD believes that the voter registration list must be maintained on an ongoing basis so voters can trust the integrity of the system, we oppose this bill because we do not believe it contributes effectively to that end. Despite evidence that voter fraud is rare and clearly not at a scale to affect election outcomes, disinformation continues to create a false picture and sow doubt. All large databases, in any field, are imperfect. Efforts to improve a database require people and money.

LWVMD urges an unfavorable report on SB 845.