

February 9, 2026

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

Re: Senate Bill 236 / HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

We, the undersigned organizations and elected leaders, urge your support for **SB 236 (HB 1010), Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology**.

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.

As more cities and counties explore ranked choice voting (RCV), it is vital to maintain consistent supporting technology for auditing and tabulation. Election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted. All of the major vendors who provide election equipment are capable of conducting ranked choice voting elections. However, there are additional tools available that may be necessary.

SB 236 (HB 1010) requires the state board of elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist with the election tabulation or auditing process.

Certifying election-supporting tools at the state level would be a cost-effective and time-saving measure for the SBE and local boards. It would reduce duplicate requests for review or certification, allowing local boards and elected officials to assess implementation needs and requirements with more confidence.

By supporting SB 236 (HB 1010), you are taking tangible action to:

- Empower local election administrators with trusted, vetted technology.
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and costs.
- Reinforce 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:

Elected Officials

Marilyn Balcome, Vice President, Montgomery County Council
César Díaz, City Council President, City of Frederick
Cindy Dyballa, Ward 2 Councilmember, City of Takoma Park
Harry M. Huntley, Ward One Alderman, City of Annapolis
Jenni Pompei, Councilmember, City of Greenbelt
Ray Ranker, District 2 Councilmember, City of College Park
Danny Schaible, Councilmember, City of Hyattsville
Talisha Searcy, Mayor, City of Takoma Park
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember, City of Rockville
Kristen Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Greenbelt

Organizations

Advance Maryland
Campaign Legal Center
CAIR Maryland
Common Cause Maryland
FairVote Action
Green Party Montgomery County
Indivisible Howard County
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Forward Party
National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland
Our Revolution Montgomery County
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland
Rank the Vote Action
RepresentWomen
Shore Progress
Step Up Maryland
Third Act Maryland
Veterans for Maryland Voters