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SB236 Testimony: Ranked Choice Voting
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 2:00 PM

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an effective and proven method that allows voters to more accurately express their opinions on the ballot. Instead of selecting only one, voters can rank candidates in order of preference. SB236 would require all new Requests For Procurement (RFP) of election supporting technology to be compatible with RCV. It does not mandate RCV but makes it possible for local governments to implement if they choose.

Momentum for RCV is growing in Maryland. Since 2007, Takoma Park has used Ranked Choice Voting. More recently, Greenbelt adopted the practice, while [Annapolis](#), [Fredrick](#), [Gaithersburg](#), and [Rockville](#) are actively exploring it for their municipal elections. The Maryland State Board of Elections recognized this trend in its July 15, 2023 [report on Voting System Solutions and Campaign Reporting Information Systems MITDPs](#), stating:

“The RFP [Request for Procurement] for the NVS [new voting system] will ask each vendor to document how their proposed voting system solution facilitates ranked-choice voting. The ability of a proposed voting system solution to facilitate ranked-choice voting will not be a system requirement or evaluation criteria until it is enacted into law.”

With growing interest in RCV, it would be short-sighted to invest in new election infrastructure that cannot accommodate it. State law should require that all new hardware and software is compatible with Ranked Choice Voting. This will protect the State’s investment in voting technology and enable local jurisdictions to seamlessly adopt this method if they choose.

This modest measure ensures that Maryland’s election technology remains flexible and responsive to [alternative voting methods](#).

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB236.