

Sarah Pan, Testimony in Support of SB 727
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

February 25, 2026

Chair and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is Sarah Pan. I live in Ellicott City, Maryland, and I attend Marriotts Ridge High School. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 727, which will be heard on February 25 at 1:00 p.m.

I am a member of New Voters, an organization dedicated to expanding voter registration and civic participation among young people. Through that work, I have seen firsthand how important it is to remove barriers to voting and make participation possible for everyone—not just those who find it easiest to access the ballot.

SB 727 would allow cities to opt in to offering mobile voting as an additional method in municipal elections. It does not replace in-person or mail voting, but it gives communities flexibility to expand access responsibly.

I strongly resonate with the fact that this technology is not experimental. Secure mobile voting systems have already been piloted in multiple states, and studies have examined their security and auditability. The software incorporates encryption, identity verification, and transparent processes that allow ballots to be securely transmitted and counted.

Importantly, mobile voting can meaningfully expand disability voting rights. For voters with mobility challenges or print disabilities, traveling to a polling place or navigating paper ballots can be difficult. Secure mobile options can help ensure that more people are able to cast their ballots independently and privately.

As a young Marylander, I believe our democracy should reflect the world we live in—secure, accessible, and inclusive. I respectfully urge you to support SB 727.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Pan