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Jurisdiction: Cecil County

SB0845 Maryland Voter Registration List Accuracy and Integrity Act

FAVORABLE

The Maryland Voter Registration List Accuracy and Integrity Act will allow the LOCAL Boards of Elections to do their due diligence and maintain their voter rolls to be as accurate as possible. They can request funeral homes to send daily obituary notices, talk to the public about the importance of filling out change or cancel forms when their children leave home, make change forms and cancel forms available as well as registration forms at public events and generally enlist the publics' help in making each of their votes count.

In other words, the LOCAL Boards will have the final word on maintaining their rolls without fear that the State Board will flip inactive or cancelled registrations back to active status based on the concept of disenfranchising ineligible or deceased voters.

And of course, Local Boards will be able to react more quickly than the State Board if a mistake is made, as they are interested in making sure every eligible voter gets to vote.

This Voter Registration List Accuracy bill is important for the reasons mentioned above because there are three trends that have worked their way into the management of the MD State Board of Elections over the last few years.

- 1) The first is that we must not disenfranchise dead people by relying on the fact that they haven't voted in years or the funeral home has provided an obituary but family has moved away before signing a form for the State Board to affirm.
- 2) That it is not important if a person obviously moved out of the county or state or has not voted in 2 cycles.
- 3) It does not matter if a local board has classified a voter as Inactive because he died according to the funeral home or any additional research a local board has done. He can't be made inactive without a signature verifying death.

Not maintaining voter rolls can lead to fraud such as people using a deceased or moved voter's info to vote a ballot. Fraudulent votes dilute every citizen's vote and must be prevented.

I request that you return a FAVORABLE VOTE for Maryland Voter Registration List Accuracy and Integrity Act