

Testimony from:
Deb Otis, Director of Research and Policy at FairVote Action

In SUPPORT of SB 236
February 11, 2026
Maryland Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express FairVote Action's support for SB 236, a bill pertaining to regulation and certification of election-supporting technology in Maryland. FairVote Action is a national nonpartisan organization that researches and advocates for reforms that improve our elections.

Election administrators at the local and state level do extraordinary work to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We entrust them to run our elections and it is imperative that we equip them with the tools to do the work.

SB 236 is important to supporting this work in Maryland. This bill would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. As more jurisdictions explore or adopt ranked choice voting – including here in Maryland – election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

SB 236 empowers local election administrators with trusted technology, reduces administrative burdens, and reinforces Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections. We should continue supporting the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly.

As such, we respectfully ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.

FairVote Action is available to answer any other questions from the committee or provide additional data. You can reach me at dotis@fairvotearction.org and my FairVote Action colleagues at info@fairvotearction.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Director of Policy and Research at FairVote Action