

HB 462/SB 567: Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity: Please vote **TO SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 462/SB 567**, the *Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity* legislation.

This bill takes a **commonsense approach to strengthening election integrity** by requiring voters to present valid proof of identity when casting a ballot in person. Ensuring that the person seeking to vote is a registered voter is fundamental to maintaining **public confidence in the democratic process** and protecting the value of every lawful vote.

Requiring identity verification at the polling place helps guard against fraud and reduces opportunities for mistaken or improper voting, while still **preserving full access for eligible voters** who bring appropriate documentation. Approximately 80% of American voters are in favor of this type of requirement and this reflects its *broad appeal as a means to safeguard the integrity of our elections* and reassure voters that Maryland's electoral outcomes are accurate and trustworthy.

Importantly, **this bill does not restrict any citizen's ability to vote** — it simply asks voters to show identity documents that are already widely used in everyday life. For those who lack a traditional government-issued ID, the bill provides reasonable alternative documentation options, ensuring that the policy is both **secure and inclusive**. We have to provide ID for everyday things like driving a motor vehicle, purchasing alcohol, cigarettes/tobacco and cannabis, opening bank accounts, renting an apartment or a rental car, etc. Providing an ID for voting is no different.

Marylanders deserve elections that are **transparent, secure, and beyond reproach**. **HB 462/SB 567** helps ensure that every ballot cast in person is lawful, valid, and reflects the will of the people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 462/SB 567**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals