

SB_236_Ellis_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Andy Ellis

Position: FAV

Andy Ellis
Seeking the Green Party nomination for Governor
SB 236
FAV

I am a Green Party candidate for Governor of Maryland and a technology professional with 15 years of experience in the sector. I come to this bill from both sides -- as someone who understands how technology systems should be managed, and as a participant in the elections those systems support.

Public trust in elections depends on public confidence in the systems that administer them. SB0236 would require the State Board of Elections to develop regulations for certifying election-supporting technology, conduct annual evaluations of certified systems, and establish a process for decertifying technology that no longer meets standards. These are basic accountability measures that should be uncontroversial.

Voting machines, voter registration databases, ballot tabulation systems, and election management software are all critical infrastructure. Yet Maryland has no ongoing certification and review process for any of them. SB0236 fixes that.

This matters now more than ever. As Maryland localities explore ranked choice voting and other election innovations, they will need tabulation and auditing systems they can confidently point voters to. A state-level certification framework ensures that those tools are vetted before they reach voters -- reducing duplicate work for local boards and giving election administrators confidence in the technology they deploy.

The Green Party has championed ranked choice voting for decades -- not because it advantages third parties, but because it produces better outcomes for voters. We bring that same principle to election technology: the systems that count votes should be subject to rigorous, ongoing, transparent evaluation -- not because we distrust election administrators, but because public confidence in elections depends on it.

Every Marylander deserves to know that their vote is counted accurately by systems that have been rigorously evaluated.

I encourage this committee to provide a favorable report on SB0236.

SB236 Testimony - February 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Lemyze

Position: FAV

IndivisibleHoCoMD



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

POSITION: Favorable

by: Christine Lemyze, Defend Democracy Team Lead, Indivisible Howard County

Date: February 11, 2026

On behalf of our 1700+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of SB 236. IndivisibleHoCoMD is an informal group of citizens in Howard County, MD, registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy.

SB 236 is an important bill which will 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, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

SB 236 will empower local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Indivisible Howard County, representing 1700+ citizens in Maryland, urges a favorable report on SB 236.

Favorable Testimony SB236 021126 Miller.pdf

Uploaded by: Cynthia Miller

Position: FAV

February 11, 2026

SB 236- FAV

Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

I respectfully urge your support for **SB 236**. Our 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.

As co-lead for Third Act Maryland, an organization of more than 1,000 climate and democracy activists 60 years or older, we are committed to ensuring free, fair and secure elections are critical to our democracy.

SB 236 is an important bill in supporting this vital democracy work. 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, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing 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.

We respectfully urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Miller
Third Act Maryland Co-Facilitator
District 27

SB 236

Uploaded by: Harold Ginsberg

Position: FAV



February 9, 2025

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Written Testimony of Our Revolution Montgomery County - In Support of SB 236

Our Revolution Montgomery County supports SB 236 to require the State Board of Elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist with the election tabulation or auditing process.

Jurisdictions, both in Maryland and around the nation, are recognizing the ways that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) enhances democratic values and maximizes each voter's impact on election results.

The benefits of RCV include: I) Ensuring the legitimacy of the victor in one-winner races - such as Governor and County Executive. II) More equitable representation for minority communities in legislative bodies. III) An end to the so-called spoiler effect. IV) Less negative campaigning - especially during primaries. V) Greater voter involvement.

As more cities and counties embrace ranked choice voting (RCV), it is vital to maintain consistent supporting technology for auditing and tabulation. Election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted. All of the major vendors who provide election equipment are capable of conducting ranked choice voting elections. However, they may require additional hardware and software.

SB 236 provides for the certification of these tools at the state level thereby saving both the State Board of Elections and local election boards time and money by eliminating duplicate requests for review or certification. In addition, SB 236 would provide one consistent standard for voting equipment and ensure uniform outcomes.

SB 236 - Election Supporting Technology
Favorable
Submitted by Our Revolution Montgomery County

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Let us support the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly. **We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and to issue a favorable report.**

Respectfully submitted,

Our Revolution Montgomery County

By:

Kat Uy
Hasan Isham
Co-Chairs

SB 236

Uploaded by: Harold Ginsberg

Position: FAV



February 9, 2025

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Written Testimony of Green Party of Montgomery County - In Support of SB 236

The Montgomery County Green Party supports SB 236 to require the State Board of Elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist with the election tabulation or auditing process.

Jurisdictions, both in Maryland and around the nation, are recognizing the ways that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) enhances democratic values and maximizes each voter's impact on election results.

As more cities and counties embrace ranked choice voting (RCV), it is vital to maintain consistent supporting technology for auditing and tabulation. Election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted. All of the major vendors who provide election equipment are capable of conducting ranked choice voting elections. However, they may require additional hardware and software.

SB 236 provides for the certification of these tools at the state level thereby saving both the State Board of Elections and local election boards time and money by eliminating duplicate requests for review or certification. In addition, SB 236 would provide one consistent standard for voting equipment and ensure uniform outcomes.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Let us support the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly. **We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and to issue a favorable report.**

SB 236 - Election Supporting Technology
Favorable
Submitted by Montgomery County Green Party

Respectfully submitted,

Green Party of Montgomery County

By:

Mary Rooker
Chair

Sample Testimony_ SB 236 - Election Technology.doc

Uploaded by: Harry Huntley

Position: FAV

February 9, 2025

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senate Bill 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

As a member of the Annapolis City Council, I respectfully request your support for **SB 236**, *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

Our 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 an important bill in supporting this vital democracy work. This bill would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. As jurisdictions like mine and others across the state explore adopting ranked choice voting, election administrators deserve to have the option of accessing reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing 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.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee will give SB 236 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Harry M Huntley
Ward One Alderman
City of Annapolis

SB 236_ HB 1010 - Election Law CM Stewart Testimon

Uploaded by: Kate Stewart

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

KATE STEWART
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 4

February 9, 2026

POSITION OF Councilmember Kate Stewart, District 4: **SUPPORT**

SB 236/ HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

My name is Kate Stewart and I am the Councilmember for Montgomery County Council District 4, representing North Bethesda, Garrett Park, Kensington, parts of Chevy Chase, Takoma Park and Silver Spring. In addition, I am the immediate past Mayor of Takoma Park where I served residents for seven years. Today, I am offering my support for **SB 236/ HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation**. I am not speaking for the entire Council, but as a member who has a unique and in-depth understanding of Ranked Choice Voting, currently practiced by Takoma Park in city elections. First adopted in 2006 in the City of Takoma Park, Ranked Choice Voting was first implemented in the 2007 Takoma Park municipal election. In Takoma Park, ranked choice voting has been extremely successful. During City elections in 2012 and 2014 the organization FairVote conducted exit polls and large majorities reported understanding rank choice voting and did not have any problems casting their votes.

We also have found the process to run incredibly smoothly, where virtually no extra time is needed to determine election outcomes. In addition, the City's Board of Elections has reported few errors due to ranked choice voting and that most voters understand the concept of ranking candidates.

FairVote notes on their website that as of February 2026, RCV is used across the country in 48 jurisdictions that are home to over 14 million voters. That includes 2 states, 3 counties, and numerous cities. Because of a trend of jurisdictions across the country adopting RCV, machines are now more likely to include built-in technology to implement RCV. These bills would allow our state and local election administrators to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We trust our election professionals to run our elections and we must equip them with the tools to do the work. These bills would allow the framework for secure implementation.

I urge the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to give SB 236/ HB 1010 full consideration and favorable support.

SB 236 pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Lesley Frost

Position: FAV

SB 236 Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

Position - Favorable

February 9, 2026

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

My name is Lesley Frost and I am the Chair of National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland State Policy Advocacy Committee (NCJW MD SPA). I am writing on behalf of our 600 advocates across the state in support of SB 236 Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

As more cities and counties explore ranked choice voting (RCV), it is vital to maintain consistent supporting technology for auditing and tabulation. Election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted. All of the major vendors who provide election equipment are capable of conducting ranked choice voting elections. However, there are additional tools available that may be necessary.

SB 236 requires the state board of elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist with the election tabulation or auditing process. Certifying election-supporting tools at the state level would be a cost-effective and time-saving measure for the SBE and local boards. It would reduce duplicate requests for certification, allowing local boards and elected officials to assess implementation needs and requirements with more confidence.

NCJW supports Ranked Choice Voting as a means to move us closer to a more democratic electoral system and SB 236, empowers local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

I respectfully urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.

Lesley Frost
Chair NCJW MD SPA, ncjw.mdacts@gmail.com

7707 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda MD 20814 lesleyfrost0@gmail.com

SB 236 _ HB 1010 RCVMD Testimony - Election Techno

Uploaded by: Michelle Whittaker

Position: FAV

February 9, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 236 (House Bill 1010)
Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) is dedicated to promoting transparent, secure, and accurate elections at all levels. **SB 236, Certification of Election-Supporting Technology** (cross-filed as HB 1010), is a vital bill to support strong elections in Maryland. We recognize the invaluable work of our election administrators and believe it is important to provide them with trusted, vetted tools to do their work.

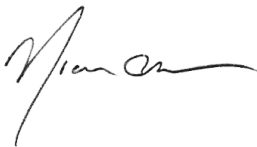
This legislation directly addresses feedback we have received from election administrators and elected officials: the need for vetted and compatible tools to support their elections. As more Maryland jurisdictions consider or adopt ranked choice voting, administrators want access to supporting technology that has been vetted and is compatible with state equipment.

SB 236 (HB 1010) directs the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations to evaluate and certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting. Passing this bill will empower local election administrators with trusted technology, reduce administrative burdens, and strengthen Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections. It allows local boards and elected officials to assess implementation needs and requirements with greater confidence.

It is essential that we ensure election administrators have access to the necessary tools, procedures, and best practices to run secure and accessible elections, both now and in the future.

We urge a favorable report and thank you for considering SB 236 (HB 1010) and supporting the important work of our election officials.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Whittaker
Executive Director
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland

SB 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-

Uploaded by: Morgan Drayton

Position: FAV

February 11, 2026

Testimony on SB 236
Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and
Evaluation
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in favor of SB 236, which would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. As more jurisdictions through the state explore or adopt ranked choice voting, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

Our 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 necessary tools to do the work.

By supporting SB 236, we empower local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing 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. This bill will give them the tools to do so.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 236.

2-11-26 SB 236 - Election Law - Certification of E

Uploaded by: Nancy Soreng

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE ENERGY, EDUCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn President

Date: February 11, 2026

In 2014 the League of Women Voters did a study of Instant Runoff Voting, also known as Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). This is the position adopted by our members state-wide:

Support the option to use Instant Runoff Voting (IRV):

- 1. for single-seat or executive office elections, both at the state and county and local level. This would require the winner to receive a **majority of the votes cast**.*
- 2. to fill vacancies in any vacancies in any state or county offices, when special elections are held, instead of conducting both special political party primaries and a special general election.*

Support requiring all voting equipment (hardware and software) to accommodate IRV and require all voting equipment (hardware and software) for use in Maryland allow alternative ways of casting and counting ballots and be usable for all county and municipal elections.

SB 236 would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. This means of voting is being adopted by and considered by many of our municipalities and hopefully, you will pass enabling legislation to allow our counties to use this method of calculating who wins an election as well.

Ranked choice voting gives every voter the freedom to fully express their support for candidates they like without fear their vote will be wasted or help elect someone they do not like. It results in the winning candidate being the one for whom a majority of voters cast a vote instead of the one who just got the most votes. In races with large numbers of candidates this is particularly important because the results are a much better representation of who the voters actually prefer.

To employ RCV in Maryland, we need the proper technology. Therefore, we urge a favorable vote on SB 236.

SB 236 RCVMD Testimony - (Election Technology).pdf

Uploaded by: Owen Anderson

Position: FAV

February 9, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 236 / HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

We, the undersigned organizations and elected leaders, urge your support for **SB 236 (HB 1010), Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology**.

We value and respect the work election administrators do at the local and state level. They are stewards of democracy and ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. Elections occur in our state every year and it is imperative that we equip administrators with the tools to do the work today and into the future.

As more cities and counties explore ranked choice voting (RCV), it is vital to maintain consistent supporting technology for auditing and tabulation. Election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted. All of the major vendors who provide election equipment are capable of conducting ranked choice voting elections. However, there are additional tools available that may be necessary.

SB 236 (HB 1010) requires the state board of elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist with the election tabulation or auditing process.

Certifying election-supporting tools at the state level would be a cost-effective and time-saving measure for the SBE and local boards. It would reduce duplicate requests for review or certification, allowing local boards and elected officials to assess implementation needs and requirements with more confidence.

By supporting SB 236 (HB 1010), you are taking tangible action to:

- Empower local election administrators with trusted, vetted technology.
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and costs.
- Reinforce Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Let us support the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly.

We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted by the following elected officials and organizations:

Elected Officials

Marilyn Balcome, Vice President, Montgomery County Council
César Díaz, City Council President, City of Frederick
Cindy Dyballa, Ward 2 Councilmember, City of Takoma Park
Harry M. Huntley, Ward One Alderman, City of Annapolis
Jenni Pompei, Councilmember, City of Greenbelt
Ray Ranker, District 2 Councilmember, City of College Park
Danny Schaible, Councilmember, City of Hyattsville
Talisha Searcy, Mayor, City of Takoma Park
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember, City of Rockville
Kristen Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Greenbelt

Organizations

Advance Maryland
Campaign Legal Center
CAIR Maryland
Common Cause Maryland
FairVote Action
Green Party Montgomery County
Indivisible Howard County
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Forward Party
National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland
Our Revolution Montgomery County
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland
Rank the Vote Action
RepresentWomen
Shore Progress
Step Up Maryland
Third Act Maryland
Veterans for Maryland Voters

Testimony in support of SB0236 - Certification of

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0236 RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/11/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0236- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0236, **Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation**

The Brennan Center has documented the need for this legislation. ¹

Most states use electronic voting and tabulation systems that are at least a decade old, and many are no longer even manufactured. Election officials report that they must go to eBay to find replacement parts, which in itself poses a security threat. Registration databases are similarly antiquated, frequently running on unsupported software, which may not receive regular security patches and may be more vulnerable to the latest methods of cyberattacks.

Maryland must undertake these actions because the Federal Government is abandoning its role in protecting the security of our elections. Cyberscoop.com reported: ²

As feds pull back, states look inward for election security support - Secretaries of State are scrambling to replace cybersecurity services once provided by CISA and other federal agencies.

As CyberScoop and others have reported, CISA [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency] has scaled back its election security support – in some cases [shuttering](#) work on topics like disinformation — while firing or [sidelining](#) election security specialists at the agency. The administration is also pursuing voter data from all 50 states, an effort that has [been called](#) “unprecedented and illegal” by one court.

Maryland can, through this bill, remediate these problems that now exist by requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations for the review, certification, and decertification of election-supporting technology and to review and evaluate election-supporting technology on or before January 1 each year; and requiring that the regulations be adopted by December 1, 2026.

¹ <https://www.brennancenter.org/election-security>

² <https://cyberscoop.com/cisa-election-security-cutbacks-states-trump-administration/>

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0236.

Sen. Kagan SB236 Testimony_ Ranked Choice Voting .

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

Vice Chair

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3134
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.maryland.gov

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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.

Takoma Park 2026 - SB 236 FAV - Certification of E

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 236 – Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 11, 2026

SUPPORT

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of Senate Bill 236.

SB 236 proposes a comprehensive framework to ensure that election-supporting technologies used for elections in Maryland meet rigorous standards. The bill calls for the establishment of clear regulations for the review and evaluation of election-supporting technology, providing transparency and accountability throughout the certification process. Election-supporting technology in this bill includes technology that is compatible for rank-choice voting risk-limiting audit tools and software used for preparing, presenting, or reporting the results produced by a voting system. By emphasizing continuous oversight and structured evaluation, SB 236 aims to safeguard the integrity and reliability of Maryland's elections.

The City of Takoma Park has a longstanding history as an early adopter of ranked choice voting, having implemented the system in its municipal elections to enhance voter representation and strengthen democratic participation. The City strongly values SB 236, particularly as a jurisdiction that utilizes ranked choice voting in its elections. The adoption of advanced voting methods requires technology that is not only secure but also adaptable and trustworthy. This bill focuses on robust regulatory review will help guarantee that the unique needs of communities like ours are addressed, ensuring that our election systems can faithfully and accurately process ranked choice ballots and deliver results that reflect the will of our voters.

For these reasons, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 236 and urges its favorable consideration. The bill represents a proactive step toward strengthening Maryland's democracy, promoting public confidence, and maintaining the highest standards in election technology. We believe that these measures are essential to protecting the integrity of our local electoral processes and upholding the values of fair and transparent governance.

City Contact: Talisha Searcy, Mayor

talishas@takomaparkmd.gov

RepresentWomen SB236 - Maryland, February, 2026.pd

Uploaded by: Tamaya Dennard

Position: FAV



February 9, 2026

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of RepresentWomen to support the passage of s, which requires the state board of elections (SBE) to review and certify election technology that may be used to assist in the election tabulation or auditing process.

The organization that I serve as Programs and Partnerships Manager, [RepresentWomen](#), tracks electoral outcomes for women in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting (RCV). Our overall mission is to increase gender balance in elected office and address the barriers women face in politics. **Ranked choice voting is a proven strategy that enables more women to seek and win elected office. Women hold 52% of seats in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting – almost twice the norm in places without RCV.**

SB236 would give local election officials the autonomy to assess the RCV electoral needs for their jurisdictions. Enacting the appropriate and trustworthy technology is imperative to maintain the integrity of any election. It's vital that election officials have access to the most reliable, cost-effective and necessary tools to conduct RCV elections.

In both theory and practice, RCV eliminates the barriers women face in plurality, or winner-take-all elections, creating more opportunities for women to run successfully. Our research finds that women have better opportunities to run in and win RCV elections because RCV eliminates the issue of multiple women candidates splitting the vote. RCV elections also provide an incentive for candidates to find common ground, because candidates are looking for “rank-me-second” votes from their opponents’ supporters, which in turn can lead to more civil campaigns. We also find that when voters can express their true preferences rather than vote strategically, more women win.

Here are a few of our resources that may be of interest:

- a [memo](#) on ranked choice voting & women's representation
- a [dashboard](#) on ranked choice voting and women’s representation stats
- a [toolkit](#) with additional RCV and representation materials



I ask you to consider RepresentWomen's testimony and vote Yes on SB236, as it would give the election officials access to the necessary equipment and technology to successfully facilitate and execute RCV elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely Yours,

Tamaya Dennard
Programs and Partnerships Manager

REPRESENT
WOMEN
Parity for Women in Politics

We, the undersigned organizations and elected leaders, urge your support for **SB 236, Election Law - Certification of Election, Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.**

We value and respect the work election administrators do at the local and state level. They are stewards of democracy and ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. Elections occur in our state every year and it is imperative that we equip administrators with the tools to do the work today and into the future.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

Let us support the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly. **We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB 236 full consideration and a favorable report.**

Respectfully submitted by the following elected officials and organizations:

Deb Otis Maryland SB 236_IN SUPPORT_Senate Educati

Uploaded by: Yates Wilburn

Position: FAV

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@fairvoteaction.org and my FairVote Action colleagues at info@fairvoteaction.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Director of Policy and Research at FairVote Action

2026 SB0236 Testimony Against 2026-02-11.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Testimony Against SB0236

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0236.

I am opposed to

- Requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations for the review, certification, and decertification of election-supporting technology and to review and evaluate election-supporting technology on or before January 1 each year; and
- requiring that the regulations be adopted by December 1, 2026

The bill defines election supporting technology that allows and supports Ranked Choice Voting.

Article – Election Law 16 9–107.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “ELECTION–SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY” MEANS ANY EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY THAT IS:

(I) COMPATIBLE WITH A METHOD OF CASTING AND TABULATING VOTES IN WHICH VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE AND VOTES ARE TABULATED IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS VOTER PREFERENCE;

Ranked Choice Voting is not the panacea to better elections as many supporters claim and it is difficult to audit the results of an RCV election.

If one wants RCV elections, enter a bill that has RCV in the title instead of using a back-door approach.

Please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0236.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

February 9, 2026

SB0236.pdf

Uploaded by: Jolie McShane

Position: UNF

SB0236 – Rank Choice Voting

Unfavorable

How in the world was a socialist voted in as Mayor of New York? Simply due to Rank Choice Voting, people do not understand how it works. It disenfranchises voters, pure and simple.

SB0236 Certifying Election Technology for RCV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Nelson

Position: UNF

Witness: Mary Nelson mgn136@gmail.com 443-485-0255
Jurisdiction: Cecil County

SB0236 Election Law – Certification of Election–Supporting Technology – Regulations, 2 Review, and Evaluation

UNFAVORABLE

While it sounds good to keep up the certification of election technology, the underlying point of this bill appears to require the machines to be certified for Ranked Choice Voting. RCV is the greatest way to disenfranchise voters there is. It is complicated, it is not understood by a voter who only votes for his/her first choice and the most important point is that you cannot accurately audit the votes. One example: If the first vote does not produce a majority for one candidate, everyone's 2nd choice is counted and the votes of the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round are moved to the candidates in the 2nd round. Now how many voters are in the room and how do you account for the number of votes that were voted? If you only voted for one person you have been disenfranchised from participation in the vote that chose the candidate because you did not understand the ramifications of only choosing one person.

Further if you have to choose 3 delegates, for example, as soon as one person receives a majority, the extra votes he/she received over the majority plus 1, are pulled out and their 2nd choices are applied to remaining candidates. How do you pick which ones are 'extra'? First, it is impossible to audit this accurately and second, who gets to decide which are the extra votes? That choice could alter who wins the next 2 spots.

It is misleading to present only part of the ramifications of a bill in the summary. That is happening in the general election ballots also. Think transparency.

I request an UNFAVORABLE VOTE.

SB0236-1.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

Good evening,
PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB0236, RANK CHOICE.

Did you know that the Department of Justice is coming down on the Maryland State Board of Elections for over 238,000 voter roll illegal violations? (THIS past summer 2025) and the MD State BOE is withholding vital voting rolls from the DOJ.

Maryland wants ONLY CITIZENS VOTING, We WANT one day voting, paper ballots, signature verification and the ousting of Dominion voting software. I am here as someone who has been active in election integrity for over 5 years. I implore you to **vote against Rank Choice Voting**, aka RCV.

As of September 2025, 17 states across the country have **BANNED RCV. That's 4 new states since March.**

1/ RCV is widely known to disenfranchise marginalized communities. RCV is confusing and designed to be just that. Low income and minorities are disproportionately affected by ballot exhaustion.

2/ RCV produces a lack of voting transparency, with 87% of polled Americans already believing elections are problematic. Why do this?

3/ So called "winners" will be elected without the majority of votes.

4/ "Gaming the system" is often done by adding a less threatening 2nd choice to rig the outcome.

5/ Often the winner or RCV would not have won under a traditional voting method.

6/ Then there is the expense, the cost is substantial, but do any of you care? Who's going to pay for it? Hello tax dollars. The lawsuits that follow RCV are monumental, **does Annapolis need MORE lawsuits?**

This is an exceptionally bad voting practice. We are being shafted by out of control STATE spending and more tax hikes are coming, this is beyond the pale, **this is a dangerous path to take.** We see what you are doing.

½ of Maryland already has ZERO representation. If you think you don't have a voice now, if they CRAM RCV through then we never will. RCV will ensure that the powers that have run Maryland into the ground for the last 8 years will always be in power. **An Independent, old School Democrat, Green or Republican will never hold a seat in Maryland again, but this is why you are doing this, just like the gerrymandering.**

It becomes very clear this is your socialist ticket to holding power into perpetuity.

Suzanne Duffy
Anne Arundel Co

This bill is probably unconstitutional and I do s

Uploaded by: Tom Wieland

Position: UNF

This bill is probably unconstitutional and I do support this, please vote it down, thanks

SB 236_HB 1010_ Election Law - Certification of E

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

SB 236/HB 1010: Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation: Please vote **TO OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 236/HB 1010**, which alters the certification, regulation, and review process for election-supporting technology in Maryland.

The bill states: "...(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "ELECTION-SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY" MEANS **ANY EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY THAT IS: (I) COMPATIBLE WITH A METHOD OF CASTING AND TABULATING VOTES IN WHICH VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE AND VOTES ARE TABULATED IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS VOTER PREFERENCE**; AND (II) DESIGNED FOR USE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS, INCLUDING: 1. ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS; 2. RISK-LIMITING AUDIT TOOLS; AND 3. ANY SOFTWARE USED FOR PREPARING, PRESENTING, OR REPORTING THE RESULTS PRODUCED BY A VOTING SYSTEM..."

While often presented as a reform, **ranked-choice voting** introduces unnecessary complexity into the voting process, making elections harder to understand for voters and more difficult to administer accurately. Elections should be simple, transparent, and intuitive, so voters can clearly understand how their vote is cast and counted. Ranked Choice Voting undermines that clarity.

Ranked-choice voting can also delay election results, require multiple rounds of tabulation, and increase the likelihood of voter confusion, ballot errors, and administrative mistakes. In close or contested races, these complexities can reduce public confidence in election outcomes—the opposite of what election reform should achieve.

Ranked Choice Voting additionally weakens accountability by allowing candidates to win without receiving the most first-choice votes, which can distort voter intent and make election results harder to explain or trust. Voters should be able to easily identify who won, why they won, and how their vote contributed to the outcome.

From an administrative standpoint, implementing **ranked-choice voting** often requires new voting systems, specialized software, extensive voter education campaigns, and additional training for election officials, all at significant taxpayer expense. These costs and burdens are imposed without clear evidence that Ranked Choice Voting improves turnout, fairness, or representation.

SB 236/HB 1010 introduces unnecessary regulatory complexity, and risks slowing the adoption of secure and effective tools that local election officials rely on to administer elections efficiently. **SB 236/HB 1010 adds overlapping layers of regulation and review** that are likely to increase costs, delay implementation timelines, and reduce flexibility for local election boards—without clear evidence that current safeguards are insufficient.

This bill also raises questions about **local control and accountability**. Counties and municipalities bear primary responsibility for administering elections and are best positioned to assess which tools meet their operational and security needs. Shifting those decisions further away from local administrators risks **one-size-fits-all mandates** that do not reflect on-the-ground realities.

Maryland already conducts elections that are accessible, fair, and secure under a straightforward one-person, one-vote system that voters understand. Rather than introducing experimental voting methods, the State should focus on maintaining election integrity, clarity, and public trust.

Election law should prioritize **clarity, efficiency, proven security standards, and respect for local administration**. **SB 236/HB 1010 moves in the opposite direction by expanding regulation without a clear corresponding benefit to voters or election integrity.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose ranked-choice voting and preserve a clear, transparent, and accountable election system for Maryland voters.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Trudy Tibbals

RCVRC Legislative Testimony_INFO_SB236_2_11_2026.p

Uploaded by: Ryan Kirby

Position: INFO



**Maryland General Assembly
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 11, 2026**

Testimony of Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center on Senate Bill 236

On behalf of the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center (RCVRC), we are pleased to offer this informational testimony on Senate Bill 236. The RCVRC is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan nonprofit whose mission is to help make ranked choice voting elections successful. We support ranked choice voting (RCV) implementations nationwide by providing best practices, software tools, educational material, and other resources to anyone interested in the voting method. With decades of experience managing elections, our team has also administered statewide, municipal, and district ranked choice voting elections.

SB 236 provides greater clarity on election-supporting technology, enabling the state to deploy compliant technology efficiently.¹ RCVRC's RCTab is an example of election-supporting technology that could be used to run the round-by-round count in RCV contests.² RCTab is the most comprehensive RCV software to be tested under the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) and the first open-source software to meet VVSG standards.³ Providing this clarity gives election officials using RCTab additional assurance when running RCV elections in Maryland.

SB 236 is a well-crafted bill to clarify the role of election-supporting technology in Maryland. RCVRC stands ready to assist Maryland with any ranked choice voting implementation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

/s/ Rosemary Blizzard

Rosemary Blizzard
Executive Director
Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center
PO Box 5176
Kinston, NC 28503

Ryan Kirby
Director of Policy
Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center
1100 13th St NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

¹ Additional information about RCTab and election-supporting technology is available through the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center's *Voting System Certification and RCTab Memo* at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sKaAviii5L5yplYXV1pFeOwlhfrConNo/view>.

² Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, *RCTab*, www.rcvresources.org/rctab (last visited Feb. 9, 2026).

³ The tabulator is compatible with Clear Ballot, ES&S, Hart, Liberty, and Unisyn data.