



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

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