

# **HB1448 Munnicipal Elections - Reporting of Informa**

Uploaded by: Cheryl Steinbacher

Position: FAV



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

**HB1448 Election Law – Municipal Elections – Reporting of Information to the State  
Board of Elections – Requirements**

**POSITION: Support**

**By: Linda Kohn, President**

**Date: April 1, 2026**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports an open, representative, and accountable government. **We promote electoral practices that maximize voter participation and clearly reflect voter intent, including open and informed voting practices. Every election matters – federal, state, county, and municipal alike.**

LWVMD supports requiring municipalities to provide the State Board of Elections with candidate information, along with voting procedures and locations, in a timely manner for publication on the State Board's website. This information includes:

- Qualifications to be a candidate for each office on the municipal ballot;
- Listing of all qualified candidates;
- Certain information on voting procedures and locations

Due to their nature of operating independently with their own unique set of procedures and processes, municipal elections are fraught with voter confusion. While the State Board provides each municipality with poll book data and ultimately receives their election results, they are not provided or are aware of the same level of detailed information as is available for non-municipal elections, including differing ways to cast a ballot, deadlines, and polling locations.

Voters often look to the State or County Boards' website for information, and having this detailed information for all elections in one place is more than a nicety, it is a necessity.

This bill is not intended to diminish municipal independence, but rather, to ensure voters have access to the information needed when preparing to cast their ballot.

**Because it has always advocated for open and informed voting practices, the League supports HB1448 and encourages a favorable report.**

# **HB 1448 - Municipal Elections – Information on Can**

Uploaded by: Ihemanma Ugo-Akwada

Position: FAV

**March 30, 2026**

**Testimony on HB 1448**  
**Municipal Elections – Information on Candidates and Voting Procedures and Locations**  
**Government, Labor, and Elections**

**Position:** Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in favor of HB 1448, which would create new reporting requirements around municipal elections.

HB 1448 would introduce small but meaningful reporting requirements around the administration of our municipal elections. By requiring municipalities to submit candidate qualifications, lists of qualified candidates, and clear information about how and where to vote to the State Board of Elections for prompt publication, HB 1448 increases transparency, accessibility, and creates uniformity for voters across jurisdictions.

We know that compared to state and federal elections, it can be difficult for voters to find reliable, centralized information about candidate eligibility, ballot content, and logistics on how to vote in Maryland’s municipal elections. We also know that many registered voters check-out of the political space in the time between the presidential and midterm elections, and that the fact that it’s so difficult to find up-to-date information on municipal elections likely contributes to low turn-out rates. HB 1448 will help to create more predictable timelines and transparency around municipal elections, not just for the voters, but also for any interested would-be candidates.

This is a very small change that will help ensure that the public is able to keep up with and hopefully make their voices heard within our municipal elections. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 1448.

# **HB 1448 - Municipal Elections – Information on Can**

Uploaded by: Ihemanma Ugo-Akwada

Position: FAV

**March 30, 2026**

**Testimony on HB 1448**  
**Municipal Elections – Information on Candidates and Voting Procedures and Locations**  
**Government, Labor, and Elections**

**Position:** Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in favor of HB 1448, which would create new reporting requirements around municipal elections.

HB 1448 would introduce small but meaningful reporting requirements around the administration of our municipal elections. By requiring municipalities to submit candidate qualifications, lists of qualified candidates, and clear information about how and where to vote to the State Board of Elections for prompt publication, HB 1448 increases transparency, accessibility, and creates uniformity for voters across jurisdictions.

We know that compared to state and federal elections, it can be difficult for voters to find reliable, centralized information about candidate eligibility, ballot content, and logistics on how to vote in Maryland’s municipal elections. We also know that many registered voters check-out of the political space in the time between the presidential and midterm elections, and that the fact that it’s so difficult to find up-to-date information on municipal elections likely contributes to low turn-out rates. HB 1448 will help to create more predictable timelines and transparency around municipal elections, not just for the voters, but also for any interested would-be candidates.

We support Ranked Choice Voting Maryland's suggestion to amend SB0848/HB1448 to ensure tabulation procedures for municipalities that have adopted or use ranked choice voting are available to the public and reviewed by the State Board of Elections for compliance.

**Suggested Amendment:** ANY MUNICIPALITY THAT CONDUCTS ELECTIONS USING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SHALL PROVIDE REGULATIONS ON THE TABULATION OF RANKED BALLOTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR USE WITH STATE VOTING EQUIPMENT.

This is a very small change that will help ensure that the public is able to keep up with and hopefully make their voices heard within our municipal elections. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 1448.

# **2026 April 1 HB 1448 Municipal Elections - Reporti**

Uploaded by: Pam Meister

Position: FAV

**Board of County  
Commissioners**

Joseph A. Vigliotti, President  
Michael R. Guerin, Vice President  
Thomas S. Gordon III  
Kenneth A. Kiler  
Susan W. Krebs



**Carroll County Government**

225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

April 1, 2026

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

Re: SUPPORT for HB 1448: Municipal Elections - Reporting of Information to the State Board

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners supports HB 1448 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

A blue ink signature of Joseph A. Vigliotti, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Joseph A. Vigliotti  
President

A blue ink signature of Michael R. Guerin, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'G' with a long horizontal stroke.

Michael R. Guerin  
Vice President

A blue ink signature of Thomas S. Gordon III, showing a stylized 'T' and 'G' with a long horizontal stroke.

Thomas S. Gordon III

A blue ink signature of Kenneth A. Kiler, with a stylized 'K' and 'A' and a long horizontal stroke.

Kenneth A. Kiler

A blue ink signature of Susan W. Krebs, with a stylized 'S' and 'W' and a long horizontal stroke.

Susan W. Krebs

# **SB 848\_HB 1448\_ Municipal Elections - Reporting o**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

**SB 848/HB 1448:** Municipal Elections - Reporting of Information to the State Board of Elections - Requirements: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee and Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to urge you to vote to support SB **848/HB 1448**, Municipal Elections – Reporting of Information to the State Board of Elections – Requirements.

This common-sense legislation requires municipalities to submit important election information to the State Board of Elections, including:

- Qualifications to be a candidate for each office on the ballot
- A list of qualified candidates
- Clear details on voting procedures and polling locations

By centralizing this information with the State Board of Elections, the bill makes it significantly easier for Maryland voters to access accurate, consistent information about local municipal elections. Many municipalities hold elections on different schedules and under varying rules, which can create confusion for voters. This measure promotes greater transparency, improves public access to election details, and helps build trust in the electoral process without interfering in how municipalities actually run their elections.

Increased transparency in candidate qualifications and voting logistics strengthens democracy at the local level, helps ensure residents can fully participate in their municipal elections, and increases voters' trust in the election process.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 848/HB 1448** and vote in favor of its final passage. This is a positive, low-cost step toward better-informed voters and more open local government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

# **HB 1448 Harry Testimony - Municipal Elections.pdf**

Uploaded by: Harry Huntley

Position: FWA

March 30, 2026

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

**Re: House Bill 1448 — Municipal Elections**

**Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the EEE Committee:

As a local elected official representing the area of Annapolis that you're sitting in, I support HB 1448 with the following amendment. This will ensure tabulation procedures for municipalities that have adopted or use ranked choice voting are available to the public and reviewed by the State Board of Elections for compliance.

Annapolis, like many jurisdictions across the state, is exploring adopting ranked choice voting to make our elections kinder and fairer. This amendment would support our collaboration with the State Board of Elections to do so in a transparent and secure manner.

Proposed Amendment:

ANY MUNICIPALITY THAT CONDUCTS ELECTIONS USING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING  
SHALL PROVIDE REGULATIONS ON THE TABULATION OF RANKED BALLOTS TO THE  
STATE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR USE WITH STATE VOTING EQUIPMENT.

Thank you very much to the bill sponsors who are working to bring more transparency and awareness to municipal elections. I sincerely request that you provide a favorable recommendation with this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HMH', written in a cursive style.

**Harry M Huntley**  
Ward One Alderman  
Annapolis MD  
21401

**HB1448\_testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Liza Smith

Position: FWA

Re: House Bill 1448 — Municipal Elections Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the EEE Committee:

My name is Liza Smith, and I am an elected member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee representing District 14. I have spent years advocating for voting rights, transparency, and strengthening democratic participation across Maryland.

I support HB 1448, with a targeted amendment to ensure transparency and consistency in municipalities that use ranked choice voting.

As jurisdictions adopt new voting methods, voters deserve clear, accessible information not only about when and where to vote, but also how their ballots are counted. Public trust depends on it.

To strengthen this bill, municipalities that use ranked choice voting should be required to submit their ballot tabulation procedures to the State Board of Elections for review and approval, ensuring those procedures are consistent, transparent, and compatible with state voting systems.

This is a practical step that reinforces accountability while supporting innovation in our election systems.

I appreciate the sponsors' work to bring greater awareness and structure to municipal elections, and I respectfully urge the Committee to adopt this amendment while advancing the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Liza Smith

**HB1448-RCVMDTestimony-Municipal-Elections.pdf.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Whittaker

Position: FWA

March 30, 2026

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

**Re: House Bill 1448 — Municipal Elections**

**Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and EEE Committee Members:

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) is dedicated to improving elections at all levels. Our mission focus includes ensuring municipal residents are informed about election dates, voting locations, and tabulation procedures.

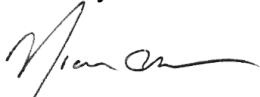
We support HB 1448 with the following amendment to ensure tabulation procedures for municipalities that have adopted or use ranked choice voting are available to the public and reviewed by the State Board of Elections for compliance.

Proposed Amendment:

ANY MUNICIPALITY THAT CONDUCTS ELECTIONS USING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING  
SHALL PROVIDE REGULATIONS ON THE TABULATION OF RANKED BALLOTS TO THE  
STATE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR USE WITH STATE VOTING EQUIPMENT.

We urge the Committee to include this amendment and appreciate the work of the bill sponsors to bring more transparency and awareness to municipal elections.

Sincerely,



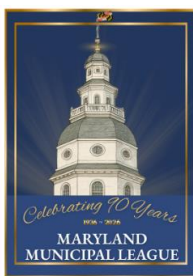
**Michelle C. Whittaker**  
Executive Director

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland  
8484 Georgia Avenue, Ste 240  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**HB 1448 CF - UNF - MML.pdf**

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey Thupari

Position: UNF



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

**BILL:** HB 1448

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) appreciates the intent of HB 1448 to improve transparency and public access to municipal election information, and we thank the sponsor for working collaboratively with us on amendments to address several of our initial concerns. As introduced, the bill contained a number of provisions that raised practical implementation challenges for municipalities, particularly those with limited staff capacity. The amendments developed in coordination with MML helped improve timelines and better align the bill with how municipal election cycles operate.

However, as the bill moved through the chamber, additional amendments were introduced and adopted that significantly change the scope and impact of the legislation in ways that are not workable for municipalities. Most notably, the bill now applies its reporting and notice requirements to special elections.

Special elections are, by nature, unpredictable and often conducted under compressed timelines to respond to vacancies or other time-sensitive circumstances. In many cases, they are triggered by the death of an elected official, and municipalities move quickly to fill the position so that governing bodies can continue to function effectively and maintain continuity of operations. Imposing the same reporting requirements and timelines designed for regularly scheduled elections onto these situations creates substantial administrative challenges. Municipalities may not have sufficient time to meet these requirements without diverting limited staff resources or risking noncompliance.

Importantly, these additional requirements do not meaningfully enhance transparency. Special elections are already publicly noticed and conducted in accordance with existing legal requirements. Instead, the bill introduces unnecessary complexity at precisely the moments when local governments are working to respond quickly and responsibly to unexpected vacancies.

MML remains supportive of efforts to improve transparency and coordination with the State Board of Elections. However, the inclusion of special elections without appropriate flexibility undermines the practical implementation of the bill and places an undue burden on municipalities. For these reasons, MML respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1448 as amended.

---

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:  
Angelica Bailey Thupari: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, [angelicab@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:angelicab@mdmunicipal.org)

*Maryland's 157 municipalities operate on varied election cycles; some years see a municipal election every month.*