



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**HB 1448 Election Law – Municipal Elections – Information on Candidates and Voting Procedures and Locations**

**POSITION: Support**

**By: Linda Kohn, President**

**Date: March 4, 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 HB 1448 and encourages a favorable report.**