

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Will Andrione. I am a senior at Severna Park High School. I am a two-time election judge and here today in very strong support of HB0662.

A bill that will incentivize Maryland Public School students to become election judges not only offers equal compensation as regular judges, but also provides service-learning hours.

As I mentioned, I am a two-time election judge, in the 2024 Primary and General, and I am also signed up to judge the 2026 Primary.

Being an election judge was the best thing that could've happened to sophomore Will. I wasn't involved in civics, just had a knack for AP Gov, so when my teacher told me about the opportunity, I signed up.

But that experience changed everything for me. Being immersed in a field surrounded by those who are engaged in civics is an incredible feeling that I have been chasing ever since. From not being involved in civics, that opportunity helped to change me into someone who loves civic engagement. Someone who testifies on bills at the General Assembly, who plans advocacy days, and works with my peers on issues important to students.

I cannot be more strongly in support of students becoming election judges, and I have tried recruiting my friends. So, incentivizing the role even further, with service learning hours, will bring more and more students in.

I credit my involvement in civics, my testimony here today, and even knowing what the General Assembly is to being an election judge, and I've seen that same ripple with my peers.

What might seem like a quick gig twice every two years is so much more. The more we see students becoming election judges, the more we will see students engaging with civics and our communities.

For those reasons and more, I urge a favorable report for HB0662. Thank you