



February 18, 2026
Testimony on HB 641
Election Law - Curbside Voting - Pilot Program
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Position: Favorable

Black Girls Vote supports HB 641 which proposes a pilot program to test the viability of Curbside Voting in Maryland. Curbside voting is a critical process that ensures all eligible voters, including those with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limiting medical conditions, can cast their ballots at the polls without facing unnecessary barriers. As you may know, many senior citizens and those who are disabled have a strong preference to vote the "old school" way by going to the polls to vote in person.

HB 641's proposed pilot program will test the viability of Curbside Voting and will require the State Board of Elections to report on the implementation of the Curbside Voting Pilot Program. The pilot program envisioned will allow voters who face barriers to voting in person inside a polling place to vote from their respective vehicles in a designated area outside the polling place. An authorized Election Official will bring a paper ballot or mobile voting device to the voter who will use it to complete the voting process. The bill lays out strict rules that ensure that, among other things, the Curbside Voting process will protect the secrecy of the voter's ballot and protect the security of the voting process. It also outlines requirements for the State Board of Elections and local Boards. The Pilot Test will identify best practices to ensure the integrity of the electoral process for voters and Election Officials.

Black Girls Vote believes that our vote is our voice, and access to the ballot is necessary to ensure that all communities can fully participate in our democracy. For the communities we serve, especially Black women, young voters, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, voting is more than a civic responsibility; it is a way to advocate for ourselves and make sure our perspectives are represented. When eligible voters face barriers that prevent them from voting, their voices are left out of decisions that directly impact their lives and communities. Expanding accessible voting options helps ensure that every voter has a fair opportunity to participate and be heard.

As the granddaughter of a woman who has a metal plate in her ankle due to an accident earlier in her life, I have witnessed firsthand how mobility challenges can affect a person's ability to navigate everyday activities, including voting. Despite these physical limitations, my grandmother has always emphasized the importance of civic engagement and has never missed an opportunity to vote in person. Voting, to her, represents dignity, independence, and the power to shape her community. HB 641 would allow voters like my grandmother to remain committed to the tradition of voting at the polls while removing unnecessary physical barriers. This bill creates an opportunity for individuals with mobility challenges to exercise their right to vote safely, independently, and with respect, ensuring their voices continue to be represented in our democratic process.

Opponents of curbside voting often raise some objections including concerns about voter fraud, increased costs, and logistical challenges. However, these objections are not supported by evidence, as discussed below:

- **Voter Fraud:** Critics often argue that curbside voting could lead to increased voter fraud. However, studies have shown that voter fraud is extremely rare, and there is no evidence to suggest that curbside voting increases the risk. In fact, states that have implemented curbside voting, such as Connecticut and New York, have not reported any significant issues with fraud.
- **Increased Costs:** Some opponents claim that curbside voting would be too costly to implement. However, the costs associated with curbside voting are minimal compared to the benefits it provides. For example, a study by the The Election Assistance Commission found that the additional costs of curbside voting are offset by the increased voter turnout and the positive impact on voter satisfaction.
- **Logistical Challenges:** There are concerns that curbside voting could create logistical challenges for election officials. However, best practices and training programs identified by the results of the Pilot Program will help address these challenges. For instance, providing clear instructions to voters and training poll workers and election officials on how to assist curbside voters can ensure a smooth and efficient process.

By implementing this pilot program, we can address the unique challenges faced by voters who may find it difficult to enter polling places. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promote inclusivity and accessibility in our electoral process. It also demonstrates our dedication to upholding the fundamental right to vote for every Marylander.



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This program has the potential to significantly improve voter participation and ensure that no one is disenfranchised due to physical limitations or health concerns. Black Girls Vote respectfully urges a favorable report to help make curbside voting a reality in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sa Sa Brooks", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Samiah Sudler-Brooks
Advocacy Intern