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February 11, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Clark  
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** House Bill 462 – Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity (Oppose)

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) **opposes** House Bill 462 – Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity. HB 462 proposes to require voters to present government-issued or non-government-issued photo identification along with proof of address to cast a regular ballot at the polls.

This legislation directly impacts our efforts to protect voting rights and ensure equal access to the franchise for all eligible Maryland citizens.

HB 462 amends § 10-310 of the Election Law Article to require election judges to establish a voter's identity by requiring presentation of either a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification along with a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing the voter's name and address. Under current law, voters must already provide their date of birth and address to be verified against the election register. The bill further requires voters who cannot present such identification to vote provisionally rather than casting a regular ballot. Finally, the bill amends § 16-201 of the Election Law Article to criminalize voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification—despite the fact that voting under a false name and voting while impersonating another person are already crimes under § 16-201(a)(1).

Voter identification requirements are unnecessary and serve to disqualify otherwise eligible voters. They disparately impact the elderly, people of limited means, and people of color. They are, in short, a solution in search of a problem because there is no evidence of widespread voter

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fraud. Maryland law should seek to expand the franchise to as many eligible citizens as possible, not to constrict the franchise to only those individuals with photo identification and proof of address.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this important issue and welcome the opportunity to share our concerns. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 462 an **unfavorable report**.