

February 23, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation - FAV

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

My name is Kristin Kenausis and I reside in Silver Spring, Maryland. I urge you to support **HB 1010 (SB 236)**, *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

After doing a bit of research, ranked choice voting (RCV) can offer a more nuanced picture of voter preferences than the traditional first-past-the-post system because it captures not just who a voter most prefers, but the relative order of their preferences across all candidates. In our current system, voters too often feel the need to "strategically vote" (i.e., support a less-preferred but more viable candidate to avoid wasting their vote.) RCV allows voters to honestly rank a third-party or independent candidate first without fear of spoiling the outcome, so the data collected reflects what the electorate actually wants rather than what it feels forced to choose. Think of the analogy of going to an ice cream shop. Isn't it far better to pick peanut butter chocolate (your favorite flavor) instead of having to tell them "any flavor but pistachio"? It seems our country/state/county has fallen into the latter scenario with voting. (I would highly recommend listening to Freakonomics, episode 595, "Why Don't We Have Better Candidates for President" for a quick, digestible argument for RCV.)

And there is a bonus benefit! Because a winning candidate under RCV must build broader coalitions — eventually earning majority support after lower-ranked candidates are eliminated and their votes redistributed — the result tends to reflect a consensus choice that more of the population can tolerate or support, rather than a candidate who simply attracted the largest minority of votes in a crowded field. Extremists on either end of the political spectrum would no longer wield a disproportionate level of power. The end result is an election outcome that more faithfully mirrors the true landscape of public opinion.

This bill would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. As more jurisdictions explore or adopt ranked choice voting, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level. By supporting HB 1010, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections.

I respectfully urge the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB1010 full consideration and a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kenausis
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