

HB 708: Municipal Elections - Voter Registration - List and Qualifications: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 708**, concerning *Municipal Elections – Voter Registration – List and Qualifications*.

This bill takes an important step toward **strengthening the integrity and uniformity of municipal elections in Maryland** by requiring that voter registration be a prerequisite for participating in local elections and clarifying qualifications for registrants. Currently, municipal election laws vary, and this legislation helps ensure that the process for registering and voting in these elections is clear, consistent, and tied to citizenship status, which aligns local elections more closely with established state and federal election standards.

By requiring voter registration and establishing clear eligibility criteria, **HB 708** helps protect the fundamental principle that **only eligible residents—particularly U.S. citizens—participate in municipal governance**. This **promotes public confidence in the fairness and legitimacy of local election outcomes**, supports the responsible administration of elections, and ensures that local leaders truly represent the communities they serve.

Municipal governments are closest to the daily lives of Marylanders, making local elections especially meaningful. Ensuring that those who vote in municipal elections are properly registered—under standards that reflect shared state norms—enhances the credibility and accountability of our local democratic processes.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 708** and support fair, consistent, and secure municipal elections throughout Maryland.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals