



To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Date: February 18, 2026

Bill: House Bill 871 – Elections – Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration

Position: Favorable

From: League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in **support** of **House Bill 871**, a policy that would upgrade Maryland’s partial automatic voter registration (AVR) system to the gold standard of **Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration (EAVR)**.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey proudly championed the passage of EAVR in our state, modernizing and improving the efficiency and accuracy of our voter registration system while also protecting non-citizens from inadvertently being registered. **EAVR provides a critical upgrade and safeguard at a time when the federal administration is attacking our voting rights and targeting voter registration.**

New Jersey’s previous partial automatic voter registration system left more than one million eligible voters unregistered in our state. In Maryland, this number is roughly 650,000. Every voter in every state deserves to face reduced barriers to voter registration, ensuring all eligible people can participate in our elections and strengthening our democracy. EAVR ensures that voters, particularly voters from historically marginalized communities, are not left out on election day.

New Jersey adopted EAVR with four goals: improving the accuracy of voter rolls, providing additional protections ensuring non-citizens are not inadvertently registered, improving efficiency, and saving money.

We learned these benefits from other states' earlier adoption of EAVR. In addition to improving accuracy, protections, efficiency, and saving money, EAVR also significantly improves registration rates. While partial AVR systems have been shown to have an approximate 50% declination rate, EAVR declination rates are under 3%.

We hope that Maryland will join New Jersey, along with 10 other states and Washington D.C., and pass EAVR. We look forward to standing together in protecting voters and our democracy.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **Favorable Report** on House Bill 871. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Burns, Executive Director

League of Women Voters of New Jersey