

**Favorable
House Bill 350
Voting Rights Act 20262- Counties and Municipal Corporations**

**Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports House Bill 350. This legislation would prohibit local county and municipal corporations from adopting election methods that impair or restrict a protected class's ability to participate in the political process and elect preferred candidates.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

House Bill 350 aims to ensure that every citizen has equal access to the ballot box and in turn the opportunity to choose representatives who will fight for the issues and policies they care about. Underrepresentation at the federal, state, and local levels has a profound impact on communities, affecting access to local infrastructure, health care, environmental protections, investments in public schools and universities, and so much more. Strengthening and ensuring every citizen's access to the ballot box strengthens our democracy and ensures an equal voice in shaping our nation's future.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 350.