

CRAIG HAYES

CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST | GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER | DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR



craig.hayes@pm.me



301-615-2294



www.craighayes.me

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

**RE: 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 Craig Hayes, and I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 1010 (SB 236), *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

For the past decade as both a Maryland voter and a political campaign professional, I have witnessed firsthand the incredibly important work our election administrators do to make sure voting in our state remains secure, accurate, and accessible. When we equip our election officials with the proper tools and technology, we enable them to do their jobs at the highest standard that we have come to expect across the state.

House Bill 1010 would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting elections. As you heard last week during the hearing for House Bill 580, ranked choice voting is being explored and adopted by more and more jurisdictions. This bill will give local election officials access to reliable tools that have been properly vetted by the state.

Ranked choice voting is no longer a theoretical, and we now have empirical as well as anecdotal evidence from campaigns across the country that it delivers on its promises of cooling candidate rhetoric and giving voters an impactful choice beyond the zero-sum game that our current system offers. While protecting democracy is a valiant endeavor that must never cease, I hope that we can also strive to improve our democracy and ensure every voter has a meaningful voice in our elections.

By supporting HB1010, you are equipping election administrators with the tools they need to succeed and continue to deliver secure, accurate, and accessible elections, and I respectfully urge the committee to give House Bill 1010 full consideration and a favorable report.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,



Craig Hayes
3420 Toledo Terrace, Unit C31
Hyattsville, MD 20782