

Unfavorable Statement HB2100

Constitutional Amendment – Election Districts -
General Assembly and Representatives in Congress
Deborah Brocato

As a Harford County resident who was born and raised in the state of Maryland, I am strongly opposed to HB2100. In addition, I grew up in Howard County and started my married life in Baltimore County. My husband and I raised our children in Harford County, and all 4 children have chosen to reside in this state in various counties.

This Special Session for the single issue of redistricting our State is a clear power grab and shows an egregious lack of concern for Maryland residents. The Democrats already hold a super-majority in the General Assembly and hold every national office except for District 1. The Democrat super-majority intends to convert all 8 Congressional districts to Democrat only and take representation away from citizens who tend to vote Republican. Obviously, this results in eliminating the opposition and removing accountability from the party in power.

From Article 1 of our Maryland Constitution: “That all Government of right originates from the People, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole. . .”
The Government is from the people and for the **good of the whole**. This Special Session is clearly for those holding office and for their self-serving power, not for the good of Maryland residents.

From Article 13: “That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceable and orderly manner.”

The proceedings for this Special Session as prescribed by the Democrat leadership severely curtails the ability of the public to express their views. The number of oral witnesses has been limited to 50 in total. For something with the gravity of amending our Maryland Constitution, the session should allow for as many witnesses from residents of the State to express their opposition or support. Witnesses should be limited to legal residents of the State of Maryland. Again, the Democrats are limiting the ability of the opposition to express their views on this significant issue.

From Article 45: “This enumeration of Rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the People.

The ability to amend the Constitution should not be used to deprive the rights of the citizens of Maryland. This Special Session is being handled in such a way that members of the minority party are being denied fair representation. And the plan to redistrict is meant to deny representation to anyone who is not registered as a Democrat. This does not comport with the intent of the State or United States Constitution for fair representation in government.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB2100 and ask for an unfavorable report.