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February 9, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chairman
And Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates, Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB0350** – Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members,

The 1,300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly **OPPOSE HB0350**
– *Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Counties and Municipal Corporations* for the following reasons:

- Election protections are already codified in the **Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965**. SB0255 gives special preference to a “protected class” when all federal law requires that all voters must be treated equally and have an equal voice in all elections.
- SB0255 states that “the election of candidates who are members of a protected and who were elected before the filing of an action to enforce § 15.7–103(a) of this title may not preclude a finding of polarized voting that results in an unequal opportunity for a protected class to elect candidates of the members’ choice.”
 - The election of candidates from the “protected class” is clear evidence that they are not denied their opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.
- Under HB0350, the Attorney General or any person may bring action. This allows persons or organizations who do not reside in the county or municipality to bring action to change the methods of election. It subjects the local jurisdiction to threats of costly legal action if the jurisdiction does not alter its chosen election method to favor a specific group.
- The proposed legislation’s aim is to **override county and municipal governing documents**, forcing jurisdictions to replace their legally chosen voting method with an alternative voting method with an alternative voting method that is unfamiliar to voters and often more cumbersome. Election chaos will ensue -- confused voters (some choosing not to vote) and increased wait times at the polls, especially if methods such as ranked-choice voting are imposed.

Our democracy was founded on the principle of “one-person, one-vote”. Please give an **UNFAVORABLE** Report to **HB0350**.

Sincerely,

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