

Support for House Bill 964 - Secure the Vote Act of 2026

David Morsberger

Davidsonville, Maryland

There is eroding trust by the public in our election system and the current attitude of the current election administration is only making it worse. The data analysis by numerous state and national organizations (e.g., near and over 100% eligible voter registration) demonstrate that the lack of trust is warranted. The current SBE administration position and talking points of “we have great processes” demonstrates their inability to run such an important system that has been deemed “National Critical Infrastructure”.

Managing critical infrastructure requires that the leaders focus on security first instead of ease of access. Imagine if your bank or your IT provider said something like,

It is too hard for everyone to get into their bank or computer account. Therefore, we are going to remove the “strong passwords” and “MultiFactor Authentication (MFA)” security controls because strong passwords are hard to remember and people may misplace their MFA token.

This would never be accepted in the banking or computer IT industries and it should NOT be accepted in our election system.

HB 964 provides the security controls necessary to mitigate vulnerabilities before they are exploited. Here are three main topics:

- **Photo ID for in-person voting** – The internet and easy access to voter rolls and voter history makes it very easy to commit fraud by impersonating a low propensity, moved, or deceased registered voter. A photo ID is another way to verify the voter and create fear and concern for anyone who wants to impersonate a voter.
- **Signature Verification for mail-in ballots** – there is no chain of custody between the time a ballot is mailed and it is received by the LBE. Signature verification is just one item that can be used to help validate the voter received and sent in the ballot. It still does not verify the voter actually filled out the ballot.
- **Citizenship proof for voter registration** – It has been demonstrated within Maryland (e.g., Ian Roberts) and across the nation that non-citizens are registered to vote, and in some cases, have voted. A simple check in the “ARE YOU A U.S. Citizen? Yes” checkbox that is never validated by the LBE is not an acceptable process for ensuring only citizens vote. A similar process to receiving a Maryland Drivers License REAL ID is required to verify only citizens are registered to vote.

The bill contains remedies (e.g., State Voter Photo IDs at libraries) and the SBE can update processes to help those citizens that may have issues providing the necessary artifacts required to legitimize their registration and vote.

In addition, the state provides for same day registration if the voter shows up to vote and there is an issue with the voter registration record.

Please vote for a favorable ruling for HB 964