



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1010 – Election Law – Certification of Election-Supporting Technology –
Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Good afternoon, Chair Wells and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Barry Jackson, and I thank you for this opportunity. We are thankful to Delegate Fair for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council support HB 1010, which establishes a framework for evaluating election-supporting technology in the state of Maryland. The bill would require the State Board of Elections to set clear rules for certifying and decertifying election-supporting technology. As part of the review of Rockville’s election laws and procedures and consideration of changes and best practices, the Mayor and Council expressed support for the exploration of Ranked Choice Voting. During community forums held in the spring of 2025, many voices commented in support of Ranked Choice Voting.

HB 1010 is critical for jurisdictions considering the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting because the bill defines “election supporting technology” as equipment that supports this method of voting. If the City were to move forward with Ranked Choice Voting, we are aware that we would not be able to implement it without access to State infrastructure for election auditing and tabulation. For municipalities that want to implement Ranked Choice Voting, HB 1010 would remove a major barrier by providing local election administrators with access to State-certified, trusted, and vetted technology. The legislation would also reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and costs.

HB 1010 takes a significant step toward modernizing elections by making it possible for innovative voting methods, such as Ranked Choice Voting to be available in Maryland. Additionally, this legislation would equip local election administrators with the tools they need to administer well-run elections while expanding election security and transparency. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for HB 1010. Thank you.