

March 30, 2026  
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The Honorable Delegate Melissa Wells, Chairman  
The Honorable Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chairman  
And Members of the Government, Labor and Elections (GLE) Committee  
House of Delegates,  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **HB0350** – Voting Rights Act of 2026 - **UNFAVORABLE** and Companion Bill **SB0255** –  
Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 – **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Committee Members,

As a Maryland citizen and voter, I am writing to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the adoption of ranked choice voting (RCV) in my beloved state. This is **NO** way to improve our elections.

I understand that some feel that RCV will improve elections. But I believe this poses significant risk to voter confidence. We already have 50% of the state thinking that the other side is somehow cheating. This will create confusion for voters, especially our seniors, new voters, and those for whom English is not a first language. The process of ranking multiple candidates and understanding how votes are redistributed can be complicated, leading to higher rates of ballot errors and disenfranchisement.

This will cause longer waiting times to vote, which means long lines. There will be complicated and confusing ballots, intimidation for some, confusion for others. It may also result in voters not voting on the “Down Ballot” for local races, because of the time required for this complicated process.

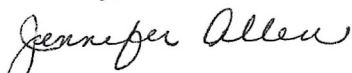
Additionally, RCV often results in longer vote-counting periods, delaying election results and potentially undermining public trust in the process. In close races, the complexity of tabulation can make it harder for voters to verify outcomes and for election officials to explain them clearly.

And why do we need a bill that gives preference to a “protected class”? Election protections were codified in the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 which requires that all voters must be treated equally and have an equal voice.

Maryland’s current voting system is straightforward, transparent, and familiar to voters. Rather than introducing a system that could reduce clarity and confidence, we should focus on improving voter education, turnout, and security within our existing framework.

Our democracy was founded on the philosophy of one person, one vote. I don’t think this needs to be changed. It has been working for 250 years. Please give an **UNFAVORABLE** vote to **HB0350** and companion bill **SB0255**.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Allen