

February 9, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland Senate  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 89 (House Bill 52)  
Election Law - Incarcerated Individuals - Voter Hotline and Eligibility (Voting Rights for All Act)**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

Voting is the essential foundation of democracy, allowing citizens to express their desires for policy and the public servants who lead government at every level. Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) believes we must ensure our electoral process ensures that every voice is heard and every vote is counted. The right to vote must be available and protected for every eligible voter.

We strongly support **SB 89 (HB 52)**, the Voting Rights for All Act, as a crucial stride toward justice and fair representation through the expansion of voting access for incarcerated individuals.

The disenfranchisement of incarcerated people and individuals with felony convictions has targeted and silenced specific communities, most particularly Black voters. Preventing any eligible voter from having a voice at the ballot box—while being directly affected by the policies of elected leaders—is an injustice.

According to the Sentencing Project, more than 16,000 Marylanders are currently disenfranchised due to criminal convictions. It is time to restore their voice in our democracy by empowering and equipping individuals to access voter registration information once they have finished their sentence.

SB 89 (HB 52) is a critical step forward and RCV Maryland is proud to be part of statewide efforts to ensure all Marylanders can participate fully in our democratic process.

The bill includes a series of transformative measures to eradicate disenfranchisement and empower marginalized communities, including:

- Expansion of voting rights to Marylanders completing their sentences inside prison;
- Establishes a toll-free voter hotline for people in prison to receive information about voting, request voting materials, and report voting rights violations.

By dismantling the barriers that bar tens of thousands of Marylanders from participating in our democracy brings us closer to a more representative democracy for all. Thank you for your consideration of this critical step towards an inclusive democracy. We urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Whittaker  
Executive Director  
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland