

**DANA JONES**  
*Legislative District 30A*  
Anne Arundel County

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEM

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

President, Women Legislators of Maryland



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones**  
**Before Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**

**In Support of HB 1001**  
**Election Law - Local Board of Elections Employees - Authority at Polling Places**  
**February 25th 2026, 1:00 pm**

For the record, I am Delegate Dana Jones representing District 30a in the House of Delegates.

Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections committee, I am here today to introduce HB1001, Election Law - Local Board of Elections Employees - Authority at Polling Places. I'm introducing this legislation alongside a sponsor amendment that limits the scope of the extension of authority to only the local election directors and the State Administrator of elections.

I'm introducing this bill because Maryland voters and election judges are feeling and experiencing increased threats to their physical safety and their voter privacy. According to a 2024 survey by the Brennan Center for Justice, nearly three in four election officials feel that threats against them have increased in recent years<sup>1</sup>. And since 2020, 92 percent of local election officials have taken actions to increase election security for voters, workers, and election infrastructure.<sup>2</sup>

These feelings are not unfounded. In 2024, Harford County election officials experienced increased verbal and written threats, leading the County to install bullet proof glass at the election office.<sup>3</sup> The increased harassment has also led, in part, to an increase in turnover among

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/local-election-officials-survey-may-2024>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/local-election-officials-survey-may-2024>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wbalv.com/article/election-worker-security-threats-harassment-harford-county/60582546>

elections judges. This has led to a smaller percentage of judges experienced with deescalating and managing aggressive behavior at polling and canvassing locations.

HB1001, and the accompanying amendment, will extend the same existing authority of election judges to keep the peace at polling and canvassing locations to the local board of elections directors and the State Administrator of elections. These professionals have received the same, if not more, training and are properly prepared to assist local judges where needed.

We must recognize the need for expanding safety measures in response to the growing number of threats. This includes ensuring there is an adequate number of highly trained staff prepared and empowered to deescalate and manage issues that may arise at Maryland polling and canvassing locations.

I'm proud to have worked with the Maryland Association of Election Officials on this legislation, and to have Senator Kagan as the cross file in the Senate.

HB 1001 is a timely and important measure to protect those that facilitate our democracy, and I humbly request a favorable report from the committee on HB 1001 and its accompanying amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones