

Witness: Katherine Strauch Sullivan
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County
Bill: **HB964** Secure the Vote Act of 2026

Testimony in Support of HB964 — Secure the Vote Act of 2026

Kate Sullivan, Director, Secure the Vote MD

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kate Sullivan, and I am the Director of Secure the Vote MD, an election watchdog group here in Maryland. I offer to you written testimony **in support of HB964, the Secure the Vote Act of 2026.**

For the past five years, our volunteers have knocked on doors, spoken directly with Maryland residents, and purchased official state voter rolls monthly in order to analyze them. We review the rolls for deceased voters, duplicates, and voters who have moved out of jurisdiction, among other categories. We understand voter rolls are dynamic systems and represent snapshots in time. Our most recent snapshot—using National Change of Address data alongside the official Maryland voter file—identified **238,488 registration violations**, including deceased, duplicate, and moved registrants who remain on the rolls.

Another way to say this is that there are **238,488 potential vulnerabilities within our election infrastructure.** We welcome scrutiny of our data and would be glad to walk the committee through our methodology and findings.

But if you refuse to look at our data, we can cite good ‘ol lived experience! How many on the GLE committee have received ballots arriving for deceased parents, for children who moved years ago, or addressed to unknown individuals? Personally, just last year, I received two live ballots that I could easily have cast. Most infamously, Non-citizen Ian Roberts was identified as a registered Maryland voter who requested THREE mail in ballots – yet does not show up in our mail in tracking system. How many more Ian Roberts are out there? We don’t know. We can’t know because the system is not working properly.

That brings me to a fundamental question that has remained unanswered for years — and one recently raised by the U.S. Department of Justice:

Maryland reports approximately **98% voter registration**, compared to a national average closer to **75%.**

Are Maryland residents truly that exceptional in registration rates, or are our voter rolls inflated due to all these registration violations? Due to non-citizens being on our rolls? This data point alone makes accurate verification procedures not optional, but essential.

My point – it is a FACT there are vulnerabilities in our system – we have seen the evidence AND we see it in the voter registration reports coming directly from the State Board of Elections!

Common sense tells us our system is only as secure as the safeguards built into it to close those vulnerabilities.

HB964 takes meaningful steps to close these vulnerabilities. Measures such as voter identification, citizenship verification, stronger signature verification, tighter absentee ballot procedures, and reassessment of unattended drop boxes are all common-sense protections designed to safeguard election integrity. With these measures in place - we would not have to argue anymore about your number vs our number of registration violations --- we could stop arguing about how much fraud is “reasonable” or “meaningful” (I would argue NO FRAUD is the only acceptable level). These arguments would not matter because we would know our system is secure.

Elections are classified as critical infrastructure precisely because they must withstand risk. When vulnerabilities are identified, the appropriate response is not dismissal — it is mitigation.

Secure the Vote MD’s mission is simple: Restore public confidence in Maryland elections. This bill would do that. Confidence in elections does not come from assurances alone — it comes from visible, enforceable safeguards.

I live in a safe neighborhood—but I still lock my doors at night. Security is not an accusation of wrongdoing; it is a recognition of responsibility.

HB964 represents an opportunity to strengthen both the security of our system and the faith of the citizens it serves.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **favorable report on HB964.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.