

February 18, 2026

**Testimony on HB 641  
Election Law - Curbside Voting - Pilot Program  
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**

**Position:** Favorable

I am a member of the DNC, AARP, Indivisible Frederick and Third Act Maryland, among other groups. I am writing on behalf of Third Act Maryland's Democracy Working Group. Third Act MD is **group of older adults from across Maryland bringing collective power and activism to climate justice and democracy efforts to make the planet more livable and to protect voting rights.**

**Third Act Maryland** supports HB 641 which proposes a pilot program to test the viability of Curbside Voting in Maryland. Curbside voting is a critical process that ensures all eligible voters, including those with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limiting medical conditions, can cast their ballots at the polls without facing unnecessary barriers. As you may know, many senior citizens and those who are disabled have a strong preference to vote the "old school" way by going to the polls to vote in person. There is a stronger sense of engagement for many people to simply "be present," to SHOW UP by example, by being physically present "at the polls,"

HB 641's proposed pilot program will test the viability of Curbside Voting and will require the State Board of Elections to report on the implementation of the Curbside Voting Pilot Program. The pilot program envisioned will allow voters who face barriers to voting in person inside a polling place to vote from their respective vehicles in a designated area outside the polling place. An authorized Election Official will bring a paper ballot or mobile voting device to the voter who will use it to complete the voting process. The bill lays out strict rules that ensure that, among other things, the Curbside Voting process will protect the secrecy of the voter's ballot and protect the security of the voting process. It also outlines requirements for the State Board of Elections and local Boards. The Pilot Test will identify best practices to ensure the integrity of the electoral process for voters and Election Officials.

Opponents of curbside voting often raise some objections including concerns about voter fraud, increased costs, and logistical challenges. However, these objections are not supported by evidence, as reflected below:

- **Voter Fraud:** Critics often argue that curbside voting could lead to increased voter fraud. However, studies have shown that voter fraud is extremely rare, and there is no evidence to suggest that curbside voting increases the risk. In fact, states that have implemented curbside voting, such as Connecticut and New York, have not reported any significant issues with fraud.
- **Increased Costs:** Some opponents claim that curbside voting would be too costly to implement. However, the costs associated with curbside voting are minimal compared to the benefits it provides. For example, a study by the The Election Assistance Commission found that the additional costs of curbside voting are offset by the increased voter turnout and the positive impact on voter satisfaction.
- **Logistical Challenges:** There are concerns that curbside voting could create logistical challenges for election officials. However, best practices and training programs identified by the results of the Pilot Program will help address these challenges. For instance, providing clear instructions to voters and training poll workers and election officials on how to assist curbside voters can ensure a smooth and efficient process.

By implementing this pilot program, we can address the unique challenges faced by voters who may find it difficult to enter polling places. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promote inclusivity and accessibility in our electoral process, which in turns will engender greater civic engagement for those populations often feeling isolated by their circumstances. It also demonstrates our dedication to upholding the fundamental right to vote for **every Marylander**.

This program has the potential to significantly improve voter participation and ensure that no one is disenfranchised due to physical limitations or health concerns. **THIRD ACT MARYLAND** respectfully urges a favorable report to help make curbside voting a reality in our state.

Lydia Goble LaGue  
796 Wembly Dr., Apt. E  
Frederick, MD 21701  
414-688-1833