



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 02/11/2026
RE: HB0350 (SB0255) - Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Counties and

Municipal Corporations

The MLLC supports HB0350 (SB0255) - Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Counties and Municipal Corporations

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0350.

This bill aims to protect the voting rights of Marylanders of protected classes by prohibiting election methods that can alter fair election results. Election methods, such as at-large elections, can silence communities of color in the voting process by diminishing the voting power of certain groups within a geographical area¹. Over the past decade, several cities have faced legal challenges to their election methods including a current challenge in Huntington Beach, California where it is alleged that the power of Latino voters is diluted by the at-large election process². As the Latino/Hispanic population continues to grow, it is essential to consider voting rights legislation that protects the power of Latino voters so they may be fairly represented in the voting process.

This bill ensures local election results are representative of the constituents of Maryland counties and municipalities. Further, it ensures that protected classes can elect candidates of their choosing and election outcomes are not negatively influenced. If elections are not representative, this legislation allows for legal action against discriminatory practices.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0350.

¹ [CLC. What is an at-large election? 25 Jun. 2024](#)

² [LAist. Trial starts over whether Huntington Beach undermines the power of Latino voters. 3 Feb. 2026](#)