

February 23, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology -
Regulations, Review, and Evaluation - FAV**

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

My name is Natalie Groom, and I urge you to vote in favor of supporting **HB 1010 (SB 236)**, *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

Over the past three decades of living in Maryland, I have observed that our election administrators at the local and state level do good work to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. I have full faith in their work as long as we equip them with the tools to do the work. I've served as an election judge and have seen firsthand the quality of volunteers and paid staff that we are fortunate to have in Maryland.

SB 236 is an important bill in supporting this vital democracy work. This bill would direct the State Board of Elections to certify election-supporting technology for ranked choice voting (RCV) elections. As more jurisdictions explore or adopt ranked choice voting, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

RCV gives voters the ability to express their preference in elections. RCV improves representation, and reduces the "spoiler" effect, which is something I have experienced because it feels like my vote gets "thrown out" if I choose to vote for a less popular candidate who I want but know won't win in the counts. RCV is the only way to go for more democratic elections.

By supporting SB 236, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing Maryland's commitment to secure, transparent, and well-run elections. We should continue supporting the election officials who work tirelessly to ensure every Marylander's vote is counted accurately and fairly. **I respectfully urge the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB1010 full consideration and a favorable report.**

Sincerely,



Natalie Groom
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