

February 2, 2026

**Written Testimony on HB-050
General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office
Government, Labor, and Elections**

Position: Favorable

My name is Julie A. Rosen, and I submit this written testimony as an individual resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I write to affirm my support of the subject proposed legislation, and urge the Committee to pass it to enact timely and transparent proceedings to fill MD General Assembly member vacancies.

As a resident of MD District 16, I have seen multiple General Assembly vacancies filled through fait accompli decisions conducted by political party leadership. Given the partisan demographics in my district, I typically have not been alarmed by such decisions. But this process does not permit the voters in my district –and throughout the state—to voice our informed preferences through an open election of the voting public. I fully appreciate the rapid timeline and costs associated with elections; not to mention the current text in MD’s constitution. Therefore, I am not in favor of immediate elections, whether they are special, primary, or general. After all, voters are deserving of a timeline that permits candidates to put forward their views of MD policies.

I believe detailed debates of the length of such timelines can ‘go too far into the weeds,’ leading to delay in a sufficiently acceptable decision. I am in support of the proposed timeline, which considers the short/two-year terms of MD Delegate Members, as well as the cost to include Special Elections simultaneously with Primary and General Elections. Additionally, this approach is a change to, vice a complete overhaul of, the current prohibition to elections in MD’s Constitution.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB050. Thank you.