

Testimony in Favor of House Bill 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

I am 75 years old and have lived in Maryland for most of those years. For the past 47 years I have been a Montgomery County resident. For many reasons I have become a strong proponent of ranked-choice voting. I believe that it should be used for Maryland's state-wide elections as well as for elections in Montgomery County. I am hopeful that HB 580 will be passed and we will be able to use it in our county elections.

While HB 580 and HB 1010 are principally focused on local elections, they also are very important for future state-wide elections. It is understandable that political leaders may be cautious about making significant changes to voting methods. One way for the citizens of Maryland, and their representatives in Annapolis, to better understand the impact of using ranked-choice voting in state-wide elections is to observe how they work in county elections. If such "first steps" are not well-implemented, the public might come to an unwarranted negative opinion of ranked-choice voting.

I urge you to support HB 1010 (SB 236) so that local officials can employ the best available tools in implementing ranked-choice voting. That way ranked-choice voting can be judged on its own merits and not of factors mainly due to poor technical implementation details. This will be of great value if and when state officials consider it for state-wide elections.

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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 [YOUR NAME], I urge you to support **HB 1010 (SB 236)**, *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

Our election administrators at the local and state level do extraordinary work to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We entrust them to run our elections and it is imperative that we equip them with the tools to do the work.

[Share a positive experience of how an election judge or election administrator helped you register to vote or cast your vote]

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 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. *[Include 1-3 sentences why you support ranked choice voting and want to improve democracy]*

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.

Equip election administrators with the tools they need to succeed!

I respectfully urge the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB1010 full consideration and a favorable report.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS]