

Testimony from:
Deb Otis, Director of Research and Policy at FairVote Action

In SUPPORT of HB 1010
February 25, 2026
Maryland House Committee on Government, Labor, and Elections

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express FairVote Action's support for HB 1010, a bill pertaining to regulation and certification of election-supporting technology in Maryland. FairVote Action is a national nonpartisan organization that researches and advocates for reforms that improve our elections.

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.

HB 1010 is important to supporting this work in Maryland. 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 – including here in Maryland – election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

HB 1010 empowers local election administrators with trusted technology, reduces administrative burdens, and reinforces 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.

As such, we respectfully ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give HB 1010 full consideration and a favorable report.

FairVote Action is available to answer any other questions from the committee or provide additional data. You can reach me at dotis@fairvotearction.org and my FairVote Action colleagues at info@fairvotearction.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Director of Policy and Research at FairVote Action