

February 11, 2026

Testimony on HB 357
Municipalities – Election Dates – Reporting Requirements
Government, Labor, and Elections

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of HB 357, which would create new reporting requirements around municipal elections.

Currently, the only comprehensive calendar of municipal elections exists on Maryland Manual Online, where they are listed simply by month – if you want to know what date the election will actually take place, you need to call your local board to find out.

We already know that many registered voters check out of the political space in the time between the presidential and midterm elections, and the fact that it's so difficult to find up-to-date information on municipal elections likely contributes to low turn-out rates. HB 357 will ensure that information related to regular and special municipal elections is displayed prominently on the State and each local Board of Elections website.

This is a very small change that will help ensure that the public is able to keep up with and hopefully make their voices heard within our municipal elections. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 357.