

February 9, 2026

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

**Re: HB 350**

**Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Counties and Municipal Corporations**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) believes we must ensure that every voice is heard and every vote is counted fairly in the electoral process. RCVMD strongly urges the Committee to support HB 350 to enact protections against racial vote dilution in Maryland.

Racial vote dilution occurs when electoral practices weaken the voting strength of voters of color, effectively denying them and their communities meaningful political participation. The protections outlined in HB 350 are essential to ensuring that all Marylanders, particularly those from historically disenfranchised communities, have the equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

At a time when federal voting rights protections have been weakened and enforcement has become increasingly uncertain, Maryland legislators have both the authority and the responsibility to safeguard fair and equal representation. Maryland law currently contains no protection against racial vote dilution.

Combatting vote dilution is an important and necessary step towards making a vision of a government that is truly of, by, and for the people a reality. When voters of color are systematically prevented from electing the candidates of their choice, entire communities are left without a voice in decisions that directly impact their lives. Simply put, prohibiting vote dilution helps create a more inclusive and accountable democracy.

HB 350 strengthens Maryland's democratic institutions, honors the legacy of the federal Voting Rights Act, and helps ensure that every eligible voter has an equal opportunity to participate in choosing who represents them within their local government. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 350.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Whittaker  
Executive Director  
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland