

Testimony For HB0964

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for HB0964, the Secure the Vote Act of 2026.

I heartily support

- repealing the requirements that the Baltimore City centralized booking facility provide a ballot drop box to eligible voters and the State Board of Elections provide a ballot drop box to the Baltimore City centralized booking facility;
- repealing the requirement that each local board of elections designate locations in the county at which ballot drop boxes will be placed and submit the proposed locations to the State Administrator of Elections;
- repealing security requirements and procedures relating to ballot drop boxes;
- repealing provisions of law governing permanent absentee ballot status;
- repealing the authority to conduct special elections by mail;
- establishing requirements related to
 - proof of citizenship of individuals registering to vote,
 - voter identification,
 - absentee ballot signature verification,
 - audits of the statewide voter registration list, and
 - the conduct of municipal elections;
- restricting absentee voting to individuals who are unable to vote in person due to certain circumstances;
- establishing prohibitions related to the
 - return of absentee ballots,
 - the counting of absentee ballots, and
 - municipal voter registration of individuals who are not citizens of the United States.

The items listed above would go a long way to improving the integrity of our elections. Increasing the use of mail-in ballots, now defined as absentee ballots, has caused vulnerabilities for identity theft such that one cannot be sure the person submitting the ballot form is actually the person whose identity information is listed on the ballot. Without any signature verification requirement, there is no real control to verify that the ballot represents the registered voter. With poor registration database controls, Maryland's voter registration file contains deceased voters and voters who no longer reside in the state or no longer reside in the precinct for that ballot.

So please enter a favorable report for HB0964, and help secure the vote for future elections..

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