

HB 964: Secure the Vote Act of 2026: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 964**, the *Secure the Vote Act of 2026*.

This legislation takes important steps to strengthen Maryland's election procedures, enhance public confidence in our electoral system, and ensure that voting laws reflect current expectations for security and integrity.

This bill establishes clear requirements related to **proof of citizenship for voter registration, voter identification standards, and verification of absentee ballot signatures**—all measures that promote confidence in the accuracy of election rolls and the integrity of every ballot cast. "... THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ISSUE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO A RESIDENT OF THE STATE ON REQUEST. THE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SATISFIES THE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR VOTING IN PERSON AT A POLLING PLACE UNDER § 10-310(B)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE. THE STATE BOARD SHALL ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN THE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION AT ANY PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE STATE. THE STATE BOARD AND EACH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM SHALL COLLABORATE TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM..."

Furthermore, **HB 964** ensures that municipal elections adhere to consistent standards for voter registration and administration, helping Marylanders across all jurisdictions participate in fair and transparent elections. "... THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE CONDUCT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE REGULATIONS SHALL BE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN STATE ELECTIONS, MODIFIED AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS..."

Protecting our democratic processes is a shared responsibility, and secure, well-regulated elections are essential to sustaining public trust in representative government. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 964**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals