

HB1010 - SUPPORT  
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HB1010, Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology -  
Regulations, Review, and Evaluation  
Meeting of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

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Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, I urge a favorable report on HB1010, Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Our election administrators at the local and state levels do extraordinary work to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We entrust them to run our elections, and we must equip them with the tools to do the work. I have voted in person many times since I moved to Maryland, and each time, I have been impressed by how smoothly the election judges made the process work.

HB 1010 is an important bill in supporting this vital democracy work. 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, election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

As a Montgomery County resident, I am particularly supportive of this bill. As you know, our Montgomery County delegation unanimously agreed to support HB0580, which would allow the Montgomery County Council to enact ranked-choice voting in certain local elections. I believe ranked-choice voting has great potential to decrease negative campaigning and polarization and to allow more voices to be heard. But for that to become a reality in Montgomery County, we also need HB1010.

By supporting HB 1010, you are empowering local election administrators with trusted technology, reducing administrative burdens, and reinforcing 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.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB1010. Thank you for your time and consideration.