

February 16, 2026

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

**Re: House Bill 871**  
**Election Law – Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration System**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland) believes a well functioning and representative democracy is inclusive, transparent, and fair. Our democratic processes must ensure every voice is heard and every vote is counted. We **support House Bill 871**, a policy to upgrade Maryland's partial automatic voter registration (AVR) system to the gold standard of **Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration (EAVR)**.

Marylanders deserve a democracy that works for them. Enhanced AVR protects the freedom to vote for historically marginalized communities. Voter registration remains a barrier in Maryland, with many eligible but unregistered citizens in the state. To move Maryland closer to registration of all eligible people and strengthen our democracy, we must adopt the important upgrades contained within EAVR.

The adoption of EAVR will accomplish four critical goals:

**Improves the Accuracy of Voter Rolls.** When a registered voter provides a new address to the MVA, that information is automatically used to update their voter registration record.

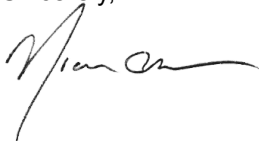
**Filters Out Known Non-Citizens.** Any person applying for an ID who provides clear proof of non-citizenship is automatically filtered out, not by creating a new list but by relying on documentation the MVA is already required to collect under the federal REAL ID Act.

**Saves Time and Money.** EAVR is low-cost to implement and can lead to time and cost savings. This upgrade could save time on MVA transactions, and reduce undeliverable election mail and paper forms.

**Gold Standard.** EAVR is adopted by 11 states—including Delaware, New Jersey, and Washington D.C.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a favorable report for HB871.**

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Whittaker  
Executive Director  
Ranked Choice Voting Maryland