



2/9/2026

The Honorable Chair Wells
Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the Committee:

The Center for Election Science respectfully writes in support of House Bill 350, the Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Counties and Municipal Corporations. This legislation represents an important effort to ensure that local election systems provide all voters with a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to elect candidates who reflect the will of their communities.

House Bill 350 addresses the way local governing bodies are elected and seeks to prevent election methods that may dilute or abridge the voting strength of protected classes. Election systems should be structured in a way that allows voters not only to cast a ballot, but to have confidence that their participation can meaningfully influence electoral outcomes. Clear standards that promote fairness, equity, and accountability at the local level are essential to maintaining public trust in elections.



Founded in 2011, the Center for Election Science (CES) is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to improving elections through research, education, and practical reform. A central component of our work is educating voters, policymakers, and election administrators about different election systems and processes. Public education regarding how election methods function and how those methods can impact representation helps voters better understand local governance and encourages informed civic engagement.

CES has worked with election officials and local governments across the country and recognizes the complexity of balancing effective representation, administrative feasibility, and legal compliance in local elections. Legislation such as House Bill 350 provides a clear framework for evaluating election methods while allowing jurisdictions flexibility to adopt constitutionally sound approaches that better reflect the diversity of their communities.

We appreciate the General Assembly's continued commitment to protecting voting rights, promoting equitable representation, and encouraging transparency and education in election administration. For these reasons, the Center for Election Science respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 350.

For more information on the Center for Election Science and its work educating the public on election systems and voting processes, please visit electionscience.org.

Sincerely,
Nina Taylor, MA
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Center for Election Science

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