

I am writing to respectfully oppose Maryland Senate Bill 0670.

SB0670 raises serious concerns about the concentration of authority at polling places by granting unelected election staff powers that closely resemble those of law enforcement. Allowing local board of elections employees to direct police actions, including arrests, creates the potential for confusion, inconsistency, and overreach in what should remain a neutral and carefully balanced election environment.

Additionally, granting broad discretion to limit or remove challengers and watchers risks undermining transparency and public confidence in the electoral process. Election oversight functions best when there are clear checks and balances, not when authority is expanded without sufficient safeguards.

Maintaining order at polling places is critical, but it must be done in a way that preserves fairness, accountability, and trust. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SB0670 or reconsider its current structure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.