

February 23, 2026

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

House Bill 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation - FAV

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

My name is John Veselka, and I urge you to support **HB 1010 (SB 236)**, *Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation*.

Our election administrators at the local and state level do extraordinary work to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We entrust them to run our elections, and it is imperative that we equip them with the tools to do the work.

HB 1010 (SB 236) 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 (RCV), election administrators need access to reliable tools that have been vetted at the state level.

I believe that many cities, counties and eventually Maryland will adopt RCV in the next few years because it is clearly a superior election system as compared to the plurality system currently in use. Among the advantages of RCV are:

1. RCV results in better representation of the preferences of the electorate.
2. RCV tends to diminish polarization of the electorate.
3. RCV eliminates the spoiler effect.
4. RCV reduces structural barriers that have historically limited third-party success.

By supporting HB 1010 (SB 236), 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.

Equip election administrators with the tools they need to succeed!

I respectfully urge the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB1010 full consideration and a favorable report.

Sincerely,

John Veselka
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