

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 Ashley Houghton and I'm a Marylander asking you to support HB 1010 (SB 236), Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

I grew up in the shadow of our nation's capital in Rockville, MD. Maryland has become our forever home with the promise of strong communities, schools, and a path forward for our two children.

My civics education, thanks to our local public school system, led me to a fascinating and vibrant career, first in civil rights and national security, then in democracy and elections. It's also rubbed off on the next generation. My children refer to their future high school, Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, as "the place where we vote" - democracy is in their DNA, before they even think to call it the place they might attend school.

I also cannot imagine a more urgent investment in Maryland at this time than to ensure our elections and democracy flourish. I have been inspired by Rep. John Lewis's words that "Your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union." If our votes are precious, they should matter as much as possible. Ranked choice voting helps make votes stronger; it gives candidates and sitting legislators the mandate to lead fully without glancing over their shoulders, waiting for challengers; it incentivizes working together at a time when we need that the most.

We also need to bring it to more voters who are asking for it every day. 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.

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

Best-

Ashley Houghton

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