

Responsive GOV ACTION

February 10, 2026

We write in support of HB 52 / SB 89, which would streamline the election administration process in Maryland. Responsive Gov Action is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to ensuring state and federal governments work effectively for the people they serve. Responsive Gov Action provides data, research, and expertise to elected officials to find practical policy solutions that make government systems more efficient, accessible, and responsive. HB 52 / SB 89 is a practical policy designed to make voting more accessible and streamline the election administration process.

Currently, the State Board of Elections must remove individuals from the voter rolls upon incarceration, which presents an administrative burden for the Board. Moreover, those individuals do not automatically have their registration restored upon release, meaning they must re-register to vote. This presents both a bureaucratic barrier to registration for these individuals and imposes an additional administrative burden on the State Board of Elections to process these additional applications.

Pending legislation (HB 115), which Responsive Gov Action supports, would require voters leaving incarceration to be automatically added to the voter rolls. HB 52 / SB 89 would go a step further—making incarcerated individuals eligible to vote and thereby eliminating the administrative burdens during both the incarceration and re-entry process for the State Board of Elections and the affected individuals. Responsive Gov Action supports either of these practical approaches to reducing election administration burdens and making voting accessible to eligible voters.