



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Black.Caucus@house.maryland.gov

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10

1st Vice Chair

Senator Shaneka Henson, District 30

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen Toles, District 25

Treasurer

Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40

Secretary

Delegate Jamila J. Woods, District 26

Financial Secretary

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

Chaplain

Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr., District 27B

Parliamentarian

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

Historian

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur, District 11A

Chair Emerita

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

Executive Director

Ufuoma O. Agarin, J.D.

MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47
Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10
Senator Joanne C. Benson, District 24
Senator Nick Charles, District 25
Senator Kevin M. Harris, District 27
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40
Senator Carl Jackson, District 8
Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45
Senator C. Anthony Muse, District 26
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20
Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 22
Senator Alonzo T. Washington, District 22
Senator Mary L. Washington, District 43
Senator Ron Watson, District 23
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39
Delegate Jacqueline T. Addison, District 45
Delegate Tiffany Alston, District 24
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32
Delegate Adrian Bofo, District 23
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A
Delegate Derrick Coley, District 24
Delegate Frank M. Conway, Jr., District 40
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19
Delegate Debra M. Davis, District 28
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A
Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A
Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., District 34A
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46
Delegate Ashanti Martinez, District 22
Delegate Alothaia McCaskill, District 44B
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14
Delegate LaToya Nkongolo, District 31
Delegate Darrell Odum, Sr., District 27A
Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28
Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, District 21
Delegate Pamela E. Queen, District 14
Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25
Delegate Denise G. Roberts, District 25
Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32
Delegate Kim Ross, District 8
Delegate Malcolm P. Ruff, District 41
Delegate Gary Simmons, District 12B
Delegate Sean A. Shinnett, District 41
Delegate Deni Taveras, District 47B
Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26
Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40
Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10
Delegate Nicole A. Williams, District 22
Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28
Delegate Greg Wims, District 39
Delegate Caylin Young, District 45

February 11, 2026

Chair Melissa Wells
Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 350 - Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Counties and Municipal Corporations. The bill prevents counties and municipal corporations from using discriminatory electoral systems that hamper individuals in protected classes from fairly electing candidates of their choice. House Bill 350 is essential as it protects minority voters by prohibiting election practices that reduce their voting power and influence in the electoral results. **This bill is a 2026 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland believes that HB 350 will help eliminate unjust electoral systems that disproportionately impact minority communities. It is critical within our communities to prevent polarized voting in local elections to ensure fair participation and representation. HB 350 would broaden the goal of preventing voter discrimination and the safeguarding of voters rights. This goal is extremely important as there have been multiple documented instances of voter discrimination in our elections. Federal court found that Baltimore County conducted a racially discriminatory redistricting map that forced the county to create a map that complied with the federal Voting Rights Act. House Bill 350 empowers protected classes to exercise their voter power and create influential change within election outcomes.

Additionally, HB 350 supports minorities regaining their voice through equal participation and fair representation, which has been an issue in recent years. In Wicomico County, there was a lawsuit that alleged an at-large voting system denied Black voters equal participation in the political process by creating a more equitable map and system, House Bill 350 directly acknowledges there have been practices that negatively impacted minority communities and distorted election outcomes. The bill promotes integrity, accessibility, and updating electoral protocols for effective representation of minority communities. The passage of this bill will strengthen the trust in the electoral process and reaffirm the faith in Black Marylanders that the system represents them fairly.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports House Bill 350.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland