

Julius Whaley, Letter of Support for HB 1066
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
February 25th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Julius Whaley, and I live in Hyattsville, Maryland. I've lived here my whole life. Growing up, I always went with my mom to vote at my elementary school. I remember seeing many elderly and disabled neighbors coming in to vote—sometimes without caregivers to assist them. It may seem small, but for people with limited mobility, getting to a polling place can be a significant physical and logistical burden.

Mail-in voting expanded access during COVID, but it also raised concerns. We've seen ballots misplaced, drop boxes vandalized, and even set on fire. Those incidents, while not widespread, affect public confidence and should be taken seriously when we talk about voter access and security.

We live in a digital world. Technology expands access in education, healthcare, and work. I believe we can apply that same innovation to voting—especially to help elderly residents, people with disabilities, and those who cannot easily get to a polling location.

Through my involvement with Civics Unplugged, serving as Student Body President at my high school, and participating in youth-led civic initiatives across Maryland, I've seen firsthand how important participation is. Democracy works best when everyone—not just those who find it easiest to vote—can have a voice.

House Bill 1066 would allow cities to explore mobile voting as an additional option. It does not replace existing methods, but it gives communities flexibility to expand access responsibly.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 1066.

Thank you for your time.