

HB 488: Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress:
Please VOTE TO OPPOSE this bill.

Dear Rules & Executive Nominations Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit my **opposition to HB 488**, which proposes changes to Maryland's legislative and congressional election districts.

The process by which districts are drawn has profound implications for **fair representation, voter confidence, and the democratic principle of "one person, one vote."** Maryland's current framework for defining both legislative and congressional districts establishes boundaries that reflect population changes following the decennial census and ensures that each resident's vote carries equal weight.

Changes to election district boundaries should be approached with caution and guided by **clear, transparent criteria** that avoid unnecessary disruption to existing representation and protect competitive balance in elections. Rushed or poorly considered revisions erodes public trust and yields maps that **favor particular interests or dilute the influence of certain voters**. HB 488 unfairly favors the interest of Democrats and leaves Republicans without good representation in the General Assembly and Congress.

Furthermore, **any redistricting process must be open, inclusive of all political views, and accountable, with ample opportunity for public input and rigorous review**. Legislation that alters district lines without robust safeguards and transparency undermines confidence in our democratic institutions and diminishes the voice of everyday Marylanders. Maryland's 40% of Republican voters will have no voice and no representation. Republicans will endure taxation without representation, which is against their Constitutional Rights.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to **vote against HB 488** and instead pursue reforms that enhance transparency, strengthen protections against partisan advantage, and **ensure that all Maryland voters are fairly represented in both the General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives**.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals

