

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 488 – Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

January 27, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony to urge the General Assembly to act now and move **forward legislatively with the proposed congressional map**, and to pass congressional districts for **2026, 2028, and 2030 together**.

This map is the result of months of real public engagement through the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Commission. Marylanders showed up. Communities spoke. The Commission listened. The map reflects that work and takes into account the lived realities of our state—from water-based communities, to Baltimore City, to the Capital Region, to fast-growing economic corridors. The Commission has done its job. Now it's time for the General Assembly to do yours.

Maryland is at a critical moment. Across the country, Republican-led states are racing to redraw congressional maps to lock in power before voters can hold them accountable. We are already seeing this play out in Texas, Florida, Missouri, Ohio, and North Carolina. Every delay only helps those efforts. Waiting does not protect fairness—it weakens Maryland's ability to respond.

Voters are clear. Polling shows that **54 percent of Maryland voters support moving forward with congressional redistricting**, and **68 percent of Democratic primary voters strongly favor new maps**. That is not mixed messaging. That is a mandate for action.

Passing maps for 2026, 2028, and 2030 together is the most responsible and transparent path forward. Voters deserve stability and clarity for the rest of the decade—not constant uncertainty, repeated fights, and changing rules every election cycle. Kicking this decision to a ballot measure would only create confusion and delay at a moment when action is urgently needed.

This process is legal, transparent, and necessary. Standing still while other states rig the system is not neutral—it is indefensible.

I urge you to act now, advance this map, and move Maryland forward.

Respectfully,

Barbara Full