

**GET MONEY OUT**

*Maryland*

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WAYS AND MEAN COMMITTEE  
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1172  
ELECTION LAW - POSTELECTION TABULATION AUDITS  
RISK-LIMITING AUDITS**

**February 27, 2020**

Get Money Out (GMOM) is an all-volunteer organization that was established just over seven years ago. We now have more than 8,400 citizen supporters. We work in Maryland toward the goals that all citizens should have equal access to the ballot and an equal say in governance.

The integrity of elections must be of paramount concern to State government. Cynicism about government and elections is already rampant for a variety of reasons. Computer security experts have advised that automated election technologies suffer from several kinds of vulnerabilities that could be exploited by any number of actors: political operatives, foreign intelligence services, or even pranksters with high-level skills. These vulnerabilities can exist in the machines which record or tally the votes or in the network by which the tallied votes are reported to the State Board of Elections.

Maryland has increased election security by switching to optical scan machines that have a paper trail of every vote cast. We are very enthusiastic about the audit procedures proposed in HB 1172 that will take full advantage of the paper trail in order to verify that votes are recorded, tallied, and reported accurately. It is our understanding that the risk-limiting audit procedure required by this legislation meets the highest standards of election security, balanced with economy, that scientists and engineers have developed.

The regulations required in section (D)(2) of the bill on page 5 will be critical in determining that the audit procedures actually perform their protective function. Therefore, we applaud the creation of a workgroup to assure that the State Board receives a wide range of advice in setting criteria and procedures for the risk-limiting audits.

We enthusiastically urge a favorable report on HB 1172 in order to verify the accuracy of our election tallies and to chart a course where the public can have more confidence in the security of our elections.