

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
And Members of the
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 838- Require Voter ID – FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

SB 838- to require a voter to provide ID when voting is common-sense and insurance against fraud and mistakes in checking in voters. Showing a government-issued ID gives everyone confidence that votes cast in an election are cast by actual registered voters. This bill provides numerous options for providing the identification to verify the voter is the person listed in the voter registry.

At a recent election in Calvert County for example there was a situation where two women with the same first and last names, who lived in separate precincts, each went to vote. The first at early voting and the second on election day. The second person was told she had already voted at early voting, and when she maintained she had not voted early she was allowed to vote a provisional ballot. This voter was highly upset. Only because the first woman had included her middle initial when she signed the voting slip were the elections board able to verify that the 2nd woman had not voted early. Had voters been required to show a government issued identification the election judge would have checked off the correct person at early voting.

You cannot enter a government building, get on an airplane, open a bank account, receive social security without verifying your identification, you should show ID to vote – our most precious right under the US and Maryland Constitutions.

Please give SB 838 a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
P.O. Box 437
Port Republic, MD 20676
E-mail: eee437@comcast.net