



## Indivisible: Central Maryland

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### **SB 158\_ Election Law – Time Off for Employee Voting. Indivisible Central Maryland\_Enagonio Liz\_SUPPORT .**

Indivisible Central Maryland SUPPORTS SB0158. We believe that voting is a right and a responsibility of citizenship. We support every effort to enfranchise all citizens eligible to vote by making it as easy as possible to cast a ballot in every election. We believe that granting all employees two hours off to vote is a valuable tool for enfranchising Maryland voters. We especially support this bill because it has the potential to allow hourly workers, workers with schedules that are not 9-5, and voters who work more than one job to access the franchise without losing pay. As well, we SUPPORT the change that would delete the need to obtain and use a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The change would remove a burden placed on employees who might not have easy access to the form, or who may not have the knowledge that such a form would be needed. The changes in election law promoted in SB0158 may seem minor, but for many “non-traditional” and especially hourly-wage employees, they represent removal of barriers to the franchise that affect less-privileged Maryland citizens. For ease of access to the vote for all Marylanders in all elections large or small, we are requesting the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee vote to **SUPPORT SB0158**.

Liz Enagonio, advocate, on behalf of Indivisible Central Maryland

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