

Indivisible HoCo MD

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB265 General Assembly - Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office

POSITION: Support

by: Christine Lemyze, Defend Democracy Team Lead, Indivisible Howard County

Date: January 15, 2021

Indivisible Howard County supports HB 265 which proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly if the vacancy occurs after a certain date; requiring that a special election held at the same time as a certain regular statewide election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly if the vacancy occurs on or before a certain date; etc.

We strongly believe in fair elections and that voters should have the last word in determining who represents them in the legislature. When legislative seats become vacant in the first year of a four-year term, there is ample opportunity for voters to cast their votes in conjunction with the presidential primary and general election.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on HB265.