



Barbara Noveau, DoTheMostGood

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

TESTIMONY ON: SB0099 Election Law - Affiliating with a Party and Voting - Unaffiliated Voters-

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2024

BILL CONTACT: Senator Cheryl Kagan

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby districts. DTMG works to protect the fundamental rights of all Maryland residents, and which promote equity across all our diverse communities.

DTMG enthusiastically supports SB0099 that extends to unaffiliated voters the right to request to affiliate with a party at an early voting center during a primary election and vote a provisional ballot for the voter's preferred political party. Not only does this allow party affiliation earlier, it also will clear up the confusion of many voters over different rules for primaries, early voting and in-person voting on election day.

For these reasons, DoTheMostGood gives a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0099

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Noveau", is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara Noveau
Founder, DoTheMostGood
barbara@dtmg.org
240-338-3048



Barbara Noveau, DoTheMostGood

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

TESTIMONY ON: SB0140 General Assembly Vacancy - Political Party Central Committees - Procedures

POSITION: FAVORABLE with Reservations

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2024

BILL CONTACT: Senator Clarence Lam

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby districts. DTMG works to protect the fundamental rights of all Maryland residents, and which promote equity across all our diverse communities.

DTMG supports with reservations SB140 that address transparency and conflicts of interest in the current procedures. We applaud the provision that a member of the central committee who has applied to fill the vacancy must recuse themselves from voting on the individual to fill the vacancy, and that the Central Committee votes will be cast by Roll Call vote will casts their votes by Roll Call vote or signed ballots. There are still problems with the entire process, from applying to campaigning and final votes not addressed here.

Overall, this bill puts small band-aids on a large wound: this process puts legislators into office without a single constituent vote. Since vacancies in the General Assembly are frequent, citizens can often end up with a delegate who would never be the choice of the people.

For these reasons, DoTheMostGood gives a **FAVORABLE with reservations** report on SB140

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Noveau".

Barbara Noveau
Founder, DoTheMostGood

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Barbara Noveau, DoTheMostGood

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

TESTIMONY ON: SB0029 - Special Elections - Procedures and General Assembly Vacancies and Ties

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2024

BILL CONTACT: Senator Cheryl Kagan

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby districts. DTMG works to protect the fundamental rights of all Maryland residents, and which promote equity across all our diverse communities.

DTMG enthusiastically supports legislation SB0029 that would require a special election be held to fill a vacancy or resolve a tie for election for a Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly, except when the vacancy occurs in a year when the General Assembly is elected. SB0029 bill also requires that such a special election be conducted by mail, addresses some of the concerns around cost to local boards of election while also promoting the efficiency and security of voting by mail.

We also applaud the speedy action by the Governor required if the vacancy or tie occurs in a General Assembly election year, especially provisions that untether the special election from a general election if it delays the special election beyond the stated times to announce and conduct the election. To leave constituents of the vacating Senator or delegate unrepresented beyond 30-45 days is unconscionable.

For all these reasons, DoTheMostGood strongly recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on (full bill number).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Noveau".

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