

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: [HB 182](#) / [SB 237](#) (Election Law – Presidential Electors – Selection and Voting)

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Hearing Date: February 11, 2026



We urge you to support [HB 182](#) / [SB 237](#), a bill that would protect Maryland voters from the risk of being retroactively disenfranchised by faithless presidential electors.

The Problem

American democracy is facing unprecedented challenges today. For example, the frequency and severity of threats against election officials have [skyrocketed](#). Presidential electors are a likely next target – [as we have already begun](#) to [see](#) in [some states](#).

In a close national election, even a single presidential elector casting their electoral college ballot in defiance of their state's election result – whether of their own free accord or, more likely, due to coercion – might improperly overturn the entire national outcome.

The Solution

24 states and the District of Columbia [currently have laws](#) that can reliably prevent such harmful outcomes. If one or more of their presidential electors tries to vote unfaithfully, that electoral college ballot cannot be counted. Additionally, a new elector is immediately appointed in that person's place, ensuring that their state's electoral votes are allocated according to the law and the votes of the people.

The best of these laws are based on a [2010 uniform bill](#) drafted by experts at the non-partisan Uniform Law Commission (ULC) and [endorsed](#) by the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. States that have already adopted this important law span the spectrum from deep "red" to deep "blue," since protecting the will of the voters is fundamentally a cross-partisan issue.

Technically, Maryland law already forbids electors from casting any electoral votes that don't match our state's certified election results. However, [our laws](#) lack any viable enforcement mechanism. We need to fix this promptly, so the Free State can reliably withstand future threats. Fortunately, the General Assembly has the power to address this with a simple, proactive solution.

Passing [HB 182](#) / [SB 237](#) is an easy way to safeguard our votes and the community leaders who serve as our electors. Any bad actors who would try to intimidate, bribe, or blackmail them would be forewarned that there is no room for such misconduct here. And by passing this law soon, Maryland can encourage more states to act before 2028, helping protect the country from the chaos that would ensue if a handful of electors were to override the will of the voters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The ACLU of Maryland

Black Girls Vote

The Brennan Center for Justice

The Campaign Legal Center

CANDLE (Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties and Equality)

Common Cause Maryland

The Election Reformers Network

FairVote Action

The League of Women Voters of Maryland

The Maryland Sierra Club

National Popular Vote

Protect Democracy United

For more information, contact david.weinberg@protectdemocracy.org