



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0447 – Local Elections - County Commissioner - District Voting

Delegate Atterbeary:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County, one of the few counties directly impacted by HB0447, writes in **OPPOSITION** to **HB0447**. For background, there are five County Commissioners in Calvert County that represent our approximately 93,000 residents. When registering to run for election, a candidate may select to run as a resident of one of the three Commissioner Districts, or run for one of the two at-large seats. In the General Election, the Candidate running from a District receiving the most County-wide votes is selected; and the two candidates receiving the highest County-wide votes for the at-large seats are selected. Regardless the number of candidates in Calvert County, every registered voter is eligible to vote for five candidates for County Commissioner. Today, no voter is restricted so they may only vote for the candidate that resides in their district.

A change like that proposed by HB447 should be considered locally with the direct input of the County's residents. If the method of voting in Calvert, last amended and approved by this General Assembly in 2013 Laws of Maryland Ch. 310, is a violation of law, as alleged in 2021, it should be so declared by the Courts, not a Legislature substituting its judgement for that of the judiciary. Your thoughtful consideration of these points is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland

cc: Calvert County Senators and Delegation