



House Bill 662

Election Law - Election Judges - Compensation for Public School Students

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

Date: February 18, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 662. This bill aims to support the recruitment of election judges by removing an unnecessary barrier for public school students.

Counties fund and administer elections through the local boards of election. Local boards rely on trained election judges to staff early voting days and Election Day, and to keep voting locations operating smoothly. Recruiting election judges has always been a persistent challenge, and today's environment only adds new pressure, with misinformation-driven confusion, heightened scrutiny at polling places, and more frequent concerns about harassment or disruption.

Under current law, public school students who serve as election judges must choose between receiving election judge pay or earning the required service-learning credit. That policy discourages participation and limits a valuable pipeline for election staff.

HB 662 allows a public school student to earn both service-learning hours and receive election judge compensation for service as an election judge. This change will help local boards recruit and retain more election judges for future elections.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 662.