



House and Senate committees should support referendum legislation [Letter]

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The power of citizens to petition the government through referendum is a key to our democratic process. I firmly believe that it is our duty as elected representatives to make sure this process to forward new or address existing laws is clear and not unnecessarily burdensome.

I support the efforts underway in both the [Maryland House](#) and Senate to address this concern by requiring the chief election official to determine "sufficiency" of local legislation summaries expeditiously when a petition is submitted for review. This new step will accelerate the process by requiring the election official to make a decision within 10 business days. This legislation also guarantees the petitioners will have ample opportunity to redraft any summary that is found insufficient. These changes will make the petition and referendum process more efficient and effective for the citizens of Maryland.

I have submitted testimony to the relevant House and Senate committees to urge their support and passage of this important legislation.

Councilman Jon Weinstein, Vice Chair

Howard County Council

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