



TONI HOLNESS
PUBLIC POLICY COUNSEL

**Testimony for the House Ways & Means Committee
March 3, 2016**

HB 1008 Election Law - Early Voting Centers

SUPPORT

The ACLU of Maryland supports HB 1008, which aims to ensure more Marylanders will be able to vote early by increasing the number of early voting centers in counties with more than 125,000 registered voters.

Early voting has been an important resource for many Marylanders—in November 2012 more than 16 percent of all ballots cast were cast in early voting. At many polling places early voting was so popular that there were long lines.

While the ACLU of Maryland does not have a policy regarding the exact number of centers or days that is proper, or whether this should be determined by the General Assembly or by the State Board of Elections in consultation with local election boards, we support in general the concept of enabling more people to access the franchise.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland supports HB 1008.

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
OF MARYLAND

MAIN OFFICE
& MAILING ADDRESS
3600 CLIPPER MILL ROAD
SUITE 350
BALTIMORE, MD 21211
T/410-889-8555
or 240-274-5295
F/410-366-7838

FIELD OFFICE
6930 CARROLL AVENUE
SUITE 410
TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
T/240-274-5295

WWW.ACLU-MD.ORG

COLEMAN BAZELON
PRESIDENT

SUSAN GOERING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL