SENATE BILL 848

By: **Senator Gallion**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 2, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Municipal Elections – <u>Reporting of</u> Information ~~on Candidates and Voting~~**
3   **~~Procedures and Locations~~ <u>to the State Board of Elections</u> – Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a municipality to submit to the State Board of Elections the
5   qualifications to be a candidate for each office on the ballot in a municipal election,
6   <u>the date of a special election and each office on the special election ballot,</u> the list of
7   qualified candidates for each office on the ballot in a municipal election, and certain
8   information on voting procedures and locations in a municipal election on or before
9   certain dates; requiring the State Board to post the information submitted by a
10   municipality regarding a municipal election on the State Board's website
11   immediately on receipt; and generally relating to municipal elections.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13   Article – Local Government
14   Section 4–108.5
15   Annotated Code of Maryland
16   (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19   **Article – Local Government**

20 4–108.5.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
      [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
      <u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.
      ~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by
      amendment.

1   (a)   In this section, "State Board" means the State Board of Elections.

2   **(B) (1) (I) 1.** ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS ~~6~~ 3 MONTHS
3 BEFORE THE CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR A REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION,
4 THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD THE QUALIFICATIONS TO
5 BE A CANDIDATE FOR EACH OFFICE ON THE MUNICIPAL BALLOT.

6   **2.** WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER A SPECIAL
7 ELECTION IS SCHEDULED, THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL REPORT TO THE STATE
8 BOARD:

9   **A.** THE DATE OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION;

10   **B.** EACH OFFICE ON THE SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT;
11 AND

12   **C.** THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR EACH
13 OFFICE ON THE SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT.

14   **(II)** IMMEDIATELY AFTER A MUNICIPALITY SUBMITS THE
15 INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
16 STATE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH THE INFORMATION ON THE STATE BOARD'S
17 WEBSITE.

18   **(2) (I)** ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS ~~1 WEEK~~ 10 BUSINESS
19 DAYS AFTER THE CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR A MUNICIPAL ELECTION,
20 INCLUDING A SPECIAL ELECTION, THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE
21 BOARD:

22   **1.** A LIST OF EACH QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR EACH
23 OFFICE ON THE MUNICIPAL BALLOT; AND

24   **2.** INFORMATION ON HOW TO VOTE AND WHERE TO VOTE
25 IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

26   **(II)** IMMEDIATELY AFTER A MUNICIPALITY SUBMITS THE
27 INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
28 STATE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH THE INFORMATION ON THE STATE BOARD'S
29 WEBSITE.

30   **[**(b)**] (C)**   (1)   **(I)**   The State Board shall, immediately after a municipality
31 submits its election results, publish the election results on the State Board's website.

1   **[**(2)**]** **(II)** The election results published under **[**paragraph (1)**]**
2 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I)** of this **[**subsection**]** **PARAGRAPH** shall be organized by election year
3 and the name of the municipality.

4   **[**(c)**]** **(2)** Within 30 days after the results of a municipal election are certified,
5 the municipality shall submit to the State Board an electronic copy of the election results
6 for each office or question voted on at the election, including:

7   **[**(1)**]** **(I)** vote totals for each office or question reported separately by each
8 of the following voting methods, if applicable:

9   **[**(i)**]** **1.** in–person early voting;

10   **[**(ii)**]** **2.** mail–in voting or vote–by–mail;

11   **[**(iii)**]** **3.** provisional voting; and

12   **[**(iv)**]** **4.** in–person election day voting; and

13   **[**(2)**]** **(II)** if the municipality conducts partisan elections, the party
14 affiliation of each candidate.

15   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
16 1, 2026.

Approved:

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                                                                Governor.

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                                           President of the Senate.

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                                     Speaker of the House of Delegates.