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Ways and Means Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 22, 2023

Linda H. Lamone, Esq
Maryland Board of Elections
151 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Lamone,

I am joined by Delegate Sandy Rosenberg in reaching out to you today to share a concern about the scheduled date for the April 2024 primary election. April 23, 2024, the primary election date, coincides with the First Day of the Passover holiday.

The first day of the Passover holiday is a particularly holy day – no work is to be done on those days, much like the High Holidays in the fall (and each Shabbat). Voting would be prohibited under Jewish law.

This is extremely impactful given the large Jewish population in the State of Maryland, roughly 100,000 in the Baltimore area alone. Our initial suggestion would be to look at moving the primary earlier in April, to April 16, 2024. That date could still accommodate early voting without any conflict with Easter, which will be the last weekend in March next year.

We believe that changing the date (absent a pandemic emergency or late court changes to redistricting maps) would require an act of the General Assembly. The date for the Baltimore City primary election in 1991 was altered by act of the General Assembly because of a conflict with a Jewish holiday. We are therefore filing a bill that would change the date for next year's primary and are hopeful that we would work together to change the date to avoid a conflict with this major Jewish holiday.

Thank you for the consideration. We look forward to your response.


Delegate Dalya Attar


Delegate Sandy Rosenberg