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## Statement from Jared DeMarinis, Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator, Regarding President Trump's "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" Executive Order

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 26, 2025) – The Maryland State Board of Elections is currently reviewing the President's "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" Executive Order in compliance with Maryland State laws and regulations regarding the conduct of elections. We strive to work with our federal partners in making our elections safe, secure, transparent and trusted. The 2024 Elections and prior ones were just that.

Please know that we are committed to protecting Maryland elections and voters. I am disheartened that the Executive Order did not mention mis/dis or malinformation especially from foreign influences. The rapid pace of technology has allowed some dis/misinformation to deter participation as well as harm faith in our election results. Ensuring we combat its spread and bringing dis/misinformation to light for public scrutiny is vital for our democracy. This includes prioritizing social media community notes from trusted sources of information like the Maryland State Board of Elections.

Additionally, this office is committed to protecting voters from undue harassment or intimidation regarding when and how they voted. Voting is a protected right that was fought for during the course of our country's history. The struggle to vote was not easy and must always be protected. Harassment and intimidation not only occurs during times of voting but can take place after the election under different guises.

Furthermore, we are analyzing the impact of the Executive Order on our military and overseas voters as well as our domestic ones. Mail-in ballots cast and postmarked before or on Election Day are legal ballots that must be counted. Those voters' voices must be heard. Claiming that the method in which the ballot was cast somehow invalidates the vote is misinformation and the record must be corrected.

Marylanders should feel confident that the collaboration between the local boards of elections and the State Board of Elections makes our electoral processes Verified, Open, Trusted and Empowering.

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