Help Increase Participation in Primary Elections

This legislation would allow registered voters who have not registered with a party, to affiliate with a party during early voting or on election day (once election day registration is in place) and then vote a regular ballot. Currently, more than 700,000 registered voters in Maryland are not affiliated with a party and therefore may only vote for Board of Education or non-partisan municipal elections on election day. There are many reasons why people don't affiliate including:

- not knowing which party they prefer at the time the register to vote,
- being disenchanted with both major parties, but then, as the election draws nearer having a strong preference for a candidate or candidates that are running on one of the major party tickets,
- or not knowing that Maryland is a closed primary state and assuming that they could vote in the primary like they had in other states without being affiliated with a party.

When you call or email your representatives in the General Assembly, you can simply say "Please support HB 530 or SB 489 Ballot Access - Voter Registration - Affiliating With a Party. This legislation would provide nearly 1/4 of Maryland citizens who are currently shut out of voting for most candidates in the primary the opportunity to participate in democracy."

Don't know who represents you in the General Assembly or how to contact them? Go to mdelect.net and enter your address.