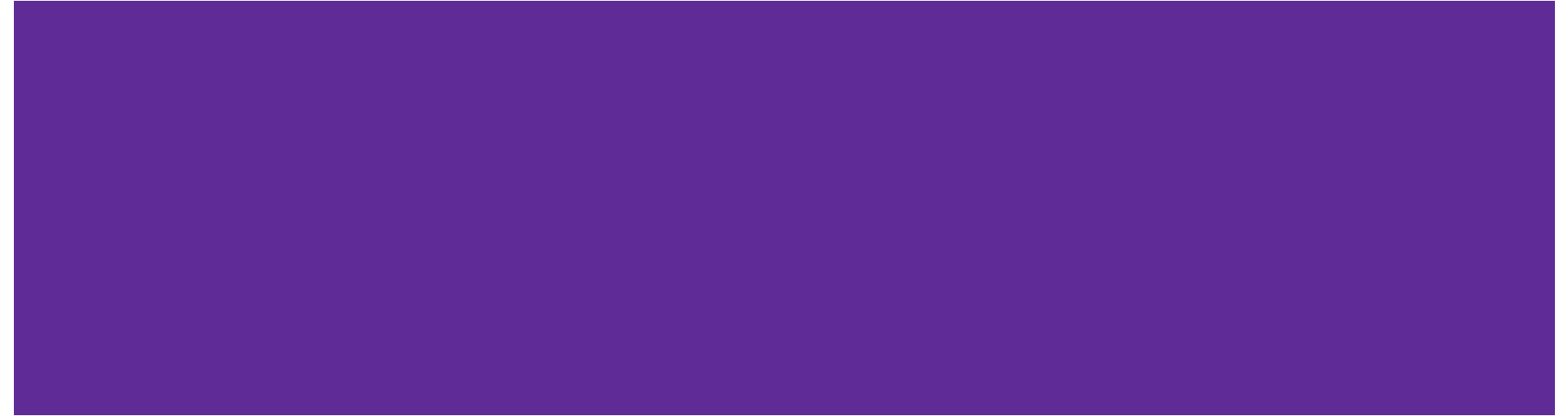


# Charting the Course: Legislation 2022

2021 MAEO Conference



# Panelists

**Senator Paul Pinsky**, Chair, Education, Health & Environmental Affairs,  
Maryland General Assembly

**Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins**, Election Subcommittee Chair, Ways & Means,  
Maryland General Assembly

**Kevin Kinnally**, Legislative Director, Maryland Association of Counties

**Jared Demarinis**, Director of Candidacy & Campaign Finance, SBE

**Mary C. Wagner**, Director of Voter Registration & Petition Division, SBE

# Question 1

You have introduced or played a role in many election bills in past legislative sessions. Can you share with us **what election legislation you were most proud of during the 2021 session**? What were you most **disappointed** about?

## Question 2

MAEO is hoping to work closely with the General Assembly to be able to enact opening absentee ballots before early voting. We attempted to get this passed in 2021, but did not have the time to host important conversations about what would be agreeable to all stakeholders. We feel we have come up with a solid plan to implement including the ability to open ballots 8 business days prior to early voting and to not tabulate during early voting. This would allow for local boards of elections to have more time to perform all required functions before and after election day while providing timely and accurate election results on election night and meeting critical post-election certification deadlines. **What do you envision as the pitfalls or challenges to getting this legislation passed?**

## Question 3

Redistricting is on the horizon. As you know, this will have a direct impact on the Gubernatorial Election. We have heard there may be a special session in December to address Congressional districts. We understand that Legislative redistricting must occur during the regular 90-day session. Some counties are also faced with Commissioner redistricting that must go through the legislative process. With the candidate filing deadline in late-February and other critical deadlines as it pertains to notifying voters of polling place changes and proofing and producing the ballots largely during the legislative session, this significantly impacts election officials having enough time to perform all functions required to redistrict voters AND prepare for an election.

**What are your thoughts on the legislative process as it pertains to redistricting?**

## Question 4

We know that in 2022, the General Assembly will be up for re-election, but you all have at least one more 90-day session in the General Assembly.

**What are some of your interests/initiatives for the 2022 session and beyond regarding elections?**

## Question 5

There is a growing concern regarding the safety and security of election officials and their offices. **Do you have any thoughts regarding the political atmosphere and the negative environment election officials are working under since the 2020 election? What ideas do you have to help keep election officials safe?**

**Questions from the Membership?**