

TIPS FOR TESTIFYING at the MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2025

Testimony must be submitted at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov> .

Click on the icon MyMGA (upper right corner of the homepage)

- A. You must set up an “Account” at MyMGA. All written testimony must be submitted as a “pdf” file.
- B. You must sign up to testify in the House or Senate for either written or oral testimony 2 work days prior to the hearing between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. using your MyMGA account. Oral testimony is limited to 2 minutes.
- C. Oral testimony can be either in-person or virtual. You must choose one when signing up.

REMINDER: When representing the MFRW or your Club YOU are the face of the Republican Party.

When testifying:

- 1. Always be respectful, polite and cordial. Thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify.
- 2. Provide extra details, charts or amendments in written form (refer to them in oral testimony).
- 3. Oral Testimony: Prepare an Outline of main points or write out entire testimony.
- 4. Practice your testimony before a mirror. TIME IT.
- 5. State your name, your organization, and the Bill number and subject of your testimony.
- 6. State your position on the bill:
 - a. I/We support requiring a voter to show a government-issued Photo ID to vote because ____ (give facts, statistics, illustrative story and benefits). Or,
 - b. We oppose ____ because ____ (state any problems or damage the bill would cause and who or what would be damaged).
 - c. We oppose this bill in its present form because ____ (facts), but if it amended to ____ (state needed changes) we could support it (or not oppose it).
- 7. Close by saying: “We urge the committee to vote for a favorable (or unfavorable) report for ____ bill number. Or, Please give HB ____ a FAVORABLE report.
- 8. If representing your club or MFRW, tell the committee about the MFRW such as:
 - At the Beginning:
I am (name) from ____ county and I am representing the ____ Club of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women. The MFRW is the largest Republican membership organization in Maryland with 1154 members in 26 unit clubs. ____
 - Or in closing:
On behalf of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women, the largest Republican membership organization in Maryland with 1154 members and 26 unit clubs, I urge your Favorable Report for ____ bill number.
- 9. If you are asked a question that you don’t have an answer to, reply: I don’t know the answer to your question, but I will check on it and provide an answer to the Chairman as soon as possible. Be sure to follow up.
- 10. For effective testimony –
 - a. Read the bill and the Fiscal Note thoroughly. (view at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>)
 - b. Check to see if an identical or similar bill was introduced last year.
 - c. If so, did the bill get out of committee?
 - d. How did the members of the committee vote?
 - e. Check who are the Republicans on the Committee? Email/talk with them before the hearing.