

TIPS FOR TESTIFYING at the MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2021

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.
- B. You must sign up for testifying for either written or oral testimony 2 work days prior to the hearing between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. using your MyMGA account.
- C. Oral testimony is limited to 2 minutes.

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 –
 - 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 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: "Therefore we urge the committee to vote for a favorable (or unfavorable) report for ___bill number.
8. If representing your club or MFRW, tell the committee about the MFRW such as:

Beginning:
I am (name) from ___county and I am representing the Maryland Federation of Republican Women. The MFRW is the largest Republican membership organization in Maryland with over 1300 members in 27 unit clubs. ___

Or in closing:
On behalf of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women, the largest Republican membership organization in Maryland with over 1300 members and 27 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.
 - 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.