Let’s act now to foster a strong sense of civic duty by giving young Marylanders more opportunities to engage in democracy. By building on our existing programs, we can inspire generations of voters to get involved.

1. **Lower the age for pre-registration**
   - Pre-registration allows people younger than 18 to vote as soon as they are eligible.
   - Right now, Marylanders 16 and over can pre-register.
   - By changing the age to 15.9, we can allow more young people who are obtaining their learner’s permits to pre-register to vote.
   - When a Marylander registers to vote, they will automatically start to receive election information. This gets them into the pipeline to civic participation.
   - Registered voters are also eligible to serve as election judges on Election Day — and we need more election judges!
   - This small change can contribute to creating the life-long habit of voting.

2. **Giving student members on county Boards of Education voting rights**
   - Many Boards of Education in Maryland have student members. But without voting rights, these student members are forced to watch as decisions are made on their behalf.
   - Giving student members on county Boards of Education the right to vote in executive sessions will allow for a more representative school board.

3. **Lower the voting age to 16 for school board elections**
   - Studies have shown that voting is a habit that is best established early; the younger a person is allowed to vote, the more likely they are to sustain that habit throughout their life.
   - Giving public high school students the opportunity to vote in school board elections as early as 16 gives them the opportunity to put their lessons about civic engagement into practice.
   - This measure will also help to create school boards that are more sensitive to the needs of the students they serve.