



Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

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July 23, 2026

Charlton T. Howard III
State Prosecutor
Office of the State Prosecutor
40 W Chesapeake Ave, Suite 300
Towson, MD 21204

Re: Referral for Investigation of Prediction Markets Entities Under Election Law Article § 16-902

Dear State Prosecutor Howard:

As Maryland's chief election official, I write to request that your Office investigate whether the operation of prediction market entities offering contracts or other financial instruments based on the outcomes of Maryland elections violates Election Law Article § 16-902, which prohibits wagering on electoral outcomes.

Currently, prediction market platforms permit participants to wager money on the outcome of State and local elections, with financial returns dependent upon the results certified by election officials. These activities raise substantial questions as to whether such contracts constitute prohibited wagering on election outcomes under Maryland law. From my plain reading of the statute and how the sites operate, I believe they do.

Maryland has a compelling interest in preserving the integrity and public trust of elections. Financial incentives should not influence or appear to influence election results. Artificial online markets should never determine electoral outcomes; only voters using their voice should determine electoral outcomes free of any undue influence, threats, intimidation or financial gain.

For these reasons, I respectfully refer this matter to your Office for investigation and any action you determine to be appropriate including seeking a clarification regarding the application of Election Law Article § 16-902 to election prediction markets themselves rather than just individuals.

Please let me know if my office can provide additional information or assistance in your review.

Sincerely,

Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator of Elections