



St. Mary's College of Maryland  
at Historic St. Mary's City

## Political Science Professors Take Research Out of Ivory Tower and Into Neighborhood Polling Places

### Ask For Election Day Innovations

#### MD Senate Bill Would Close Colleges on Election Day Encourage Professors and Students to be Poll Workers

**WHAT:** St. Mary's College of Maryland professors Michael Cain and Zach Messitte will testify to the Maryland State Senate on House Bill 366, "Election Administration and the Recruitment and Retention of Election Judges."

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 28, 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** House Office Building, Room 130, Annapolis, Maryland

**DETAILS:** Cain and Messitte will testify on House Bill 366, which they developed after implementing a "Professors at the Polls" research grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The bill, sponsored by Delegate Bohanan, requires that public institutions of higher education be closed for normal academic activities on general election day. Bill addresses problems of shortage of poll workers, average age of poll worker nearing 72 years, and increasing need for knowledge of computers by poll workers.

If passed, the new law would allow faculty and students to be non-partisan poll judges and poll workers, as well as making it more convenient for students to vote on their campus.

Their testimony is part of a report prepared in January 2007 for the American Association of University Professors and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

More information on the bill is available at

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2007RS/billfile/hb0366.htm>.

## Media Advisory

(Ref. 07 SMCM 034 MA)

Contacts:

Marc Apter

Voice: (240) 895-4381

Cell: (301) 904-3690

Robin Kendall

Voice: (240) 895-4191

**Office of Public &  
Media Relations**

**St. Mary's City, MD 20686**

**Voice: (240) 895-4381**

**FAX: (240) 895-4195**

Founded in 1840 as Maryland's "monument school" commemorating the state's first capital, St. Mary's College of Maryland provides a high-caliber liberal arts education typically associated with prestigious private colleges while maintaining the affordability and accessibility of a public college.

- 1,934 men and women
- Designated the Maryland state honors college in 1992.
- Consistently ranked among the top liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, and the *Fiske Guide*.
- Selective admissions – SAT average of 1235
- Highest 6-year graduation rate for all Maryland public colleges and universities
- Opportunities for independent student research through the senior thesis, the St. Mary's Project
- Waterfront campus along the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland
- National 2002 Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association Co-ed Champions