



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 423**

**DATE: February 6, 2024**

**SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation**

**ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means**

**CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher (Kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support**

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### Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 1-24

This bill authorizes Montgomery County to adopt a local law establishing a “ranked choice” or “approval rating” voting system for elections to County Executive, County Council, Circuit Court Judge, State’s Attorney, Register of Wills, Sheriff, and Board of Education. “Ranked choice voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and votes are tabulated in a manner that reflects voter preference. “Approval voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may choose any number of candidates and the candidate chosen most often is elected. The Montgomery County Executive and County Council believe it is appropriate to grant enabling authority to the County to decide whether to enact a local law to authorize ranked choice or approval rating for any of the offices listed in this bill. Essentially, the bill would allow for public discussion through the regular local legislative process regarding the implications of ranked choice and/or approval rating voting systems and allow for a local decision.

Montgomery County respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee give this bill a favorable report.