

At Large Voting in St Mary's County

St Mary's County has several voting districts for State Delegates that seem to be somewhat related to the county demographics, but all of our County Commissioners are elected at large.

The Lexington Park district is one of the largest population centers in St Mary's county, but has only 10-13% of the county population. St Mary's population is predominantly white (more than 70%), but the nonwhite population of the Lexington Park district is about 50%.

This means that, while nonwhite Lexington Park voters do have a significant voice in state elections due to in-district state voting, they and the Lexington Park district have little voice in at-large county elections. Although St Mary's Commissioners must live in the district they are running for, they are obviously responsible to the entire county, not just the voters in that district. SB 255 is intended to correct this.

I am white, live in Lexington Park, and am strongly in favor of having my district and the county's nonwhite population properly represented in the county government.

Harold Childers

Lexington Park MD