

To whom it may concern,

As a long-time resident of Montgomery County, I am thrilled that this bill seeking to implement ranked choice voting in the county has been introduced. One of the most important parts of any democracy is ensuring that people's voices are heard. Ranked choice voting is a more equitable voting system that encourages candidates for office to speak to the whole electorate.

For elections involving multiple candidates, like the council election in the county, ranked choice voting is ideal. Voters are able to express their preference for multiple candidates, ensuring that the diversity of the electorate is represented. Our hyper-partisan political atmosphere exacerbates the need for more voting systems that use proportional representation. I want to vote for candidates based on what they'll do for my community, rather than simply based on party affiliation. Ranked choice voting encourages this very pattern by introducing second and third preference votes. Now, voters can vote based on the issues they care about for multiple candidates, ensuring that two party politics doesn't hamper the ability for independents and smaller parties to appeal to the electorate.

Some might object to the system based on its complexity. However, many smaller communities all around us have embraced ranked choice voting. My vote for representatives at my workplace, for example, uses a ranked choice voting system. In other words, this is a system that is familiar and intuitive enough to be implemented by much smaller bodies than local government. I am confident that our local elections can be run just as effectively, ensuring that the benefits of ranked choice voting outweigh any potential downsides.

I am not one to write into my local government about many issues but finding out about this particular bill spoke to me. This is a systemic change that has the potential to make local government matter more for the residents of Montgomery County. I urge you to support this ambitious bill.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Djain