

BILL: HB0767

BILL TITLE: Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 22-21

BILL SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: February 16, 2021

HB0767 - SUPPORT

My name is Joe Reinhard of Silver Spring. I am writing to voice support for HB 767 to enable Montgomery County to use alternative voting methods such as Ranked Choice Voting or approval voting for local elections. As a resident of Montgomery County, I am eager to see our local government enact common sense good governance measures to ensure a stronger democracy. While the state legislature has other priorities such as COVID relief, Kirwin, and the repeal of Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights, we should remember that on January 6th, our Capitol was attacked with destructive intent to suppress our democracy. In moments like this, we should not take it for granted. Alternative voting initiatives like Ranked Choice Voting and approval voting, we can rid the toxicity in our political system and ensure productive civil discourse.

As a voter and resident of Montgomery County, I want to see us do better. In our 2018 local primary elections, candidates often won and ensured victory in the general election with anywhere from just 8% to 30% of the vote. Our elections need to be more inclusive, more approachable, and more representative of our County. A tool like Ranked Choice Voting can help move us toward all of those goals. It will help make running for office more attainable to many, including those in groups historically underrepresented. It can even make elections less divisive, as it gives voters more options and the ability to reject candidates that conduct negative campaigning and exhibit extremist views. I strongly urge you to support alternative voting methods like Ranked Choice Voting or approval voting for Montgomery County in order to encourage and promote a strong and vibrant democracy.

Joe Reinhard
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