



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 925

Senator Patterson
(Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs
Committee)

Prince George's County - Special Elections Conducted
by Mail - Voting Centers

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 925 – Prince George's County - Special Elections Conducted by Mail - Voting Centers – For the purpose of altering requirements for voting centers used in a special election conducted by mail in Prince George's County. This is to ensure that in a special election held in a single county council district, at least one voting center shall be established in the county council district where the special election is being held; and in a countywide special election, at least one voting center shall be established in each county council district. This would make voting more accessible.

Chapter 677 of 2012 authorized county council special elections in Montgomery County to be conducted by mail, and Chapters 197 and 198 of 2013 expanded those provisions to apply to special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress, special elections to fill a vacancy in a county council, and other specified local special elections statewide. Pursuant to a constitutional amendment (Chapter 261 of 2014) adopted by the voters at the November 2014 general election, special elections for a county executive vacancy may also be conducted by mail. In a special election conducted by mail, a vote by mail ballot is mailed to each registered voter who is eligible to vote in the special election. The completed ballot must be mailed by the voter on or before the day of the special election or returned to the local board of elections office in person by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the special election. As drafted, this legislation would allow Prince George's County to conduct early elections in the same manner as Montgomery County.

These provisions will help support the Board of Elections in their efforts when it comes to ensuring accessibility during all elections held in Prince George's County. Special elections are just as important as any other election and allowing for a window of in-person voting will further support community engagement and fair elections.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 925** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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