



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 344

DATE: February 7, 2023

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means

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

POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 3-23

This bill authorizes the 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 bill is a reintroduction of House Bill 362 (MC 13-22) from the 2022 Session.

The County believes that ranked choice and approval voting systems are legitimate options to consider and evaluate at the local level and respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee give this enabling bill a favorable report.