



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 1094 – Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 9-25 House Ways and Means Committee February 24, 2025

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 1094, that will authorize Montgomery County to adopt a ranked-choice voting method or approval voting method for elections for certain local offices.

Takoma Park has implemented ranked-choice voting (RCV) with great success in every municipal election since 2007. The system is well received by our voters. It allows the winning candidate to feel confident they have the backing of a majority of the voters and provides voters additional options in the event their first-choice candidate is eliminated.

Current election technology can accommodate both ranked-choice contests and plurality contests on the same ballot. Organizations such as the Ranked-Choice Voting Resource Center and the Center for Civic Design have developed best practices, guides, and materials for use by jurisdictions that adopt RCV.

If Montgomery County enacted RCV, Takoma Park would benefit because we may be able to share our balloting process with Montgomery County, which is not something that we can do now, so we have an additional local reason for hoping to see this legislation adopted. This would offer our community a modest money saving opportunity due to increased efficiency and reduced mailing costs.

We ask for a favorable report.