

February 16, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill 580 - Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26 - FAV**

Dear Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I urge you to support **HB 580**, *Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26*. This enabling bill will give Montgomery County the ability to move forward using Ranked Choice Voting instead of our old, obsolete one-vote-for-each-position system. This will work wonders for us.

Over the past 12 years every Democratic Primary County Executive race has been won with less than a majority of the vote. Our 2026 race for County Executive will have at least 4 Democratic contenders. More people will turn out to vote if they know they can show a preference for more than just one candidate.

**Why HB 580 Matters**

- Since 2014, every Democratic Primary for the Montgomery County Executive has been won with less than a majority of the vote.
- In 2022, 4 out of 7 Primary winners in district races won with less than a majority.

I believe more voters will pay attention to the races if negative campaigns are discouraged. Voters may also study the candidates carefully if they know they can vote for their first, second and third choices. This should be specially true for independent and Republican voters.

I urge each of you to give HB 580 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Peggy Dennis

member of the Women's Democratic Club

Past President of the Montgomery County Civic Federation

