

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 Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members:

Please support **HB 580**, *Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26*. Montgomery County should have the right to choose the voting method that works best for us.

HB 580 is an enabling bill. It allows the county to take the next steps at the local level to explore a voting method that addresses issues that have happened repeatedly in county elections over the last decade.

#### **Why HB 580 Matters**

- Since 2014, every Democratic Primary County Executive race 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 fully anticipate seeing split votes and non-majority winners in the upcoming 2026 primaries because of competitive races for county council and county executive. In a time when our national politics are moving ever further away from democratic principles, we in Montgomery County want to fortify our elections, disempower corporate money, and ensure voters' will is enacted. And we should be allowed to do so.

Give Montgomery County the ability to choose the best solution for our community.

#### **We Have Strong Support**

- The Montgomery County House Delegation voted unanimously in favor of HB 580 / MC 1-26.
- The bill is supported widely by county leaders, city leaders, community organizations, and residents.

#### **No Impact on Current Elections**

- HB 580 is enabling legislation. It does not mandate the use of a new voting method.
- HB 580 would go into effect in January 2027.

The benefits of ranked choice voting are proven and clear at the local and state level. We are seeing municipalities across Maryland wake up to the democratic advantages of ranked choice voting and its ability to increase voter participation as well as representation—Takoma Park has successfully employed RCV since 2019, Greenbelt's electorate has just chosen to start that journey and cities from Rockville to Annapolis are taking a hard look at the benefits. I hope Montgomery County can lead the way for Maryland as a whole—especially if redistricting efforts do not move forward. As a resident of the now purple District 6, I look forward to the day when primary elections do not land us with the least offensive candidates in lieu of the most preferred candidates.

Montgomery County has embraced innovation and led the way on other democracy reforms. Please vote to give Montgomery County the power to strengthen our elections.

**I urge the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB 580 full consideration and a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

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