



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

KATE STEWART
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 4

February 9, 2026

POSITION OF Councilmember Kate Stewart, District 4: **SUPPORT**

SB 236/ HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.

My name is Kate Stewart and I am the Councilmember for Montgomery County Council District 4, representing North Bethesda, Garrett Park, Kensington, parts of Chevy Chase, Takoma Park and Silver Spring. In addition, I am the immediate past Mayor of Takoma Park where I served residents for seven years. Today, I am offering my support for ***SB 236/ HB 1010 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation.*** I am not speaking for the entire Council, but as a member who has a unique and in-depth understanding of Ranked Choice Voting, currently practiced by Takoma Park in city elections. First adopted in 2006 in the City of Takoma Park, Ranked Choice Voting was first implemented in the 2007 Takoma Park municipal election. In Takoma Park, ranked choice voting has been extremely successful. During City elections in 2012 and 2014 the organization FairVote conducted exit polls and large majorities reported understanding rank choice voting and did not have any problems casting their votes.

We also have found the process to run incredibly smoothly, where virtually no extra time is needed to determine election outcomes. In addition, the City's Board of Elections has reported few errors due to ranked choice voting and that most voters understand the concept of ranking candidates.

FairVote notes on their website that as of February 2026, RCV is used across the country in 48 jurisdictions that are home to over 14 million voters. That includes 2 states, 3 counties, and numerous cities. Because of a trend of jurisdictions across the country adopting RCV, machines are now more likely to include built-in technology to implement RCV. These bills would allow our state and local election administrators to ensure our elections are secure, accurate, and accessible. We trust our election professionals to run our elections and we must equip them with the tools to do the work. These bills would allow the framework for secure implementation.

I urge the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to give SB 236/ HB 1010 full consideration and favorable support.