

Bill number: HB 580

Position: in FAVOR

Name and address: Alexandra Bely, 6907 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

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,

I urge you to support HB 580. For a vibrant democracy, we need to decrease barriers to running for office by truly welcoming all candidates without concern about spoiler candidates. We need to ensure that every vote contributes to the outcome. We need a process that identifies winners with the greatest overall support. The current system in place in Montgomery County, as in other counties in our state, do not give us these features. Ranked Choice Voting does.

The voting history in Montgomery County demonstrates that it is currently common for races to be won without a majority. This is problematic. Our goal should be to identify winners with the broadest support, even in crowded fields. Because of its many benefits, ranked choice voting is becoming adopted in many jurisdictions nationwide, to improve elections.

I fully support Montgomery County in their effort to improve their election process. HB 580 would not mandate ranked choice voting, it would make it possible to use this form of voting in Montgomery County. Having more tools in our election toolbox to identify broad support candidates is a win for the County and a win for Maryland. I am excited to see the option of ranked choice voting on the table as the county considers ways to strengthen their elections.

Please vote to give Montgomery County the ability to strengthen their election process by supporting HB 580.

Sincerely,

Alexandra (Alexa) Bely
6907 Rhode Island Ave
College Park, MD 20740