

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:

My name is Owen Anderson, and I am writing to you as a resident of Catonsville, MD. I urge you to support **HB 580, Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26**. Give residents and leaders the power to choose what works best for them. Strong local support and no impact on current elections, make HB580 an easy yes.

#### **Why would anyone outside Montgomery care about HB 580?**

Montgomery's success with public campaign financing showed us in Baltimore County how we could benefit. They could show us the way to better voting methods. I want more tools available for fair elections in MD.

In Baltimore County, we have a competitive election cycle for County Executive and county council seats. I will be forced to make impossible predictions to determine who I should strategically cast my vote for and hope that my candidate does not drop out of the race. I will not be able to support all of the candidates I like because I have to use the flawed system we have today.

#### **Montgomery County can improve local elections.**

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.

#### **The Time Is Right**

- 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
- Montgomery County has embraced innovation and led the way on other democracy reforms
- HB 580 is enabling legislation, and 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. I support ranked choice voting and hope we can have productive discussion at the local level to move the best reform forward.

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

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

Sincerely,

Owen Anderson  
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Catonsville, 21228, MD