



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 580

DATE: February 18, 2026

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Government, Labor, and Elections

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COUNTY POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 1-26

This bill authorizes Montgomery County to adopt a local law establishing a “ranked choice” or “approval rating” voting system for elections to County Executive, County Council, Circuit Court Judge, State’s Attorney, Register of Wills, Sheriff, and Board of Education. “Ranked choice voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and votes are tabulated in a manner that reflects voter preference. “Approval voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may choose any number of candidates and the candidate chosen most often is elected. Since the nature of the bill is enabling only, it provides the opportunity, but no mandate, for consideration of a bill at the local level that might implement ranked choice or approval voting after appropriate analysis and deliberation of a local bill, including all of the extensive analysis and public input that would be expected for such a bill.

Montgomery County believes that this enabling bill appropriately authorizes the County to consider whether adoption of ranked choice voting or approval voting for the offices referenced in the bill would be in the best interests of County residents and respectfully requests that the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee give this bill a favorable report.