

**Testimony: HB 580 - Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26**

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Melissa Wells; Vice Chair, Kenneth Kerr; and Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a long-time resident of Montgomery County, I urge you to pass this bill and give our County the ability to choose its election methodology, including Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

Our election process has been dysfunctional for a long time and our local government has not had the authority to fix it. This bill gives them that authority.

Repeatedly, here in Montgomery County, there is a long list of candidates running for office, both County Council and County Executive. The result has been split votes such that the winners have less than a majority, and even sometimes a small percentage, of the vote.

The current methodology does not serve us well. It discourages citizens from voting and does not meet our idea of a functioning democracy where a majority vote is required to represent us.

Incorporated cities/towns in Maryland have had this authority and chosen RCV. Please don't continue to penalize our County by continuing to deny us the same voting rights.

Please vote favorably and give Montgomery County the ability to choose the best voting methodology for our County.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Broadman  
Bethesda, MD 20817