

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, Prabu Selvam, candidate for Montgomery County Council At-Large, request your support for **HB 580, *Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26***. County residents and leaders must have the power to choose the voting method that best represents our values and democratic ideals.

In Montgomery County, most high-profile recent elections have been won without a majority of the vote. At a time when community and cooperation are more important than ever, we need a voting system that builds consensus. The ability to rally behind candidates that reflect the needs and hopes of the greatest number of residents is critical to our future, as we stand up to human rights violations and erosion of democracy from dangerous polices at the federal level.

The Montgomery County House Delegation voted unanimously in favor of HB 580 / MC 1-26. The bill is also widely supported by county leaders, city leaders, community organizations, and residents.

The benefits of ranked choice voting are proven and clear at the local and state level. It has been successful across the country from progressive liberal municipalities, like our own Tacoma Park, to more moderate and conservative states like Maine and Alaska. Please support ranked choice voting so we can begin deliberations at the local level to select the best way forward for our county.

Montgomery County has embraced innovation and led the way on so many pro-democracy reforms. Let's give Montgomery County the power to strengthen our elections and serve as a state-wide and national example of a more inclusive electoral process.

I humbly request the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB 580 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Prabu Selvam
Gaithersburg, MD