

HB0580

Favorable

I am a 9 year resident of Bethesda, a regular voter, retired from NASA, and one of your favorite election judges.

I have a request: please support bill HB580. In particular, please support the Ranked Choice Voting component.

RCV is much superior to the plurality voting which we use today. RCV practically eliminates 'dishonest voting' where one votes for a candidate with a good shot to win rather than the candidate one really wants to win.

Moreover, RCV selects a MAJORITY winner. That is huge. It motivates candidates to appeal to a larger segment of their constituency.

Montgomery County would have benefited greatly from RCV in the 2022 Democratic primary for County Executive. Marc Elrich and David Blair both received about 39% of the vote; Elrich won by 32 votes. RCV would have added the input from over 30 THOUSAND voters who voted for someone else besides these two candidates and it would have identified a MAJORITY winner.

Lastly, RCV is VERY WELL established: Australia and Ireland have used it in national elections for over 100 years. RCV is not experimental.

Please give us better elections in Montgomery County by supporting this bill.

Thank you,

Craig Kundrot
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