

Testimony to the Government, Labor and Election Committee
HB 580 - Montgomery County -Voting Methods MC 1-26
Postion: Favorable

Submitted by: Cathy Stogel, Howard County, MD
2/16/2026

Dear Honorable Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 580 which would enable Montgomery County voters to use ranked choice voting (RCV) in county level elections.

By allowing voters to express their preferences by ranking their choices the eventual winning candidate truly has the broadest support among voters, rather than just a simple majority.

Research has shown that RCV increases voter turnout as people are more likely to vote when they know their vote will count/matter.

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/>)

Higher voter turnout is fundamental to a healthy democracy. Low turnout is a sign of political disengagement and the belief that voting won't make a difference.

Ranked Choice Voting would help alleviate those ever increasing problems.
Please submit a favorable report on HB 580

Thank you,
Cathy Stogel
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Ellicott City, Md 21042.