



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 580 (HB 580) – Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26
Government, Labor, Elections
February 18, 2026

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 580 (HB 580) Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 1-26.

HB 580 authorizes the Montgomery County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked-choice voting method or an approval voting method for elections for certain local offices. These reforms would give the County Council the flexibility to implement innovative and representative voting systems, empowering local jurisdictions to select the method that best reflects their community’s needs. By expanding the range of voting methods, HB 580 promotes greater voter choice, inclusivity, and engagement in the electoral process.

The City of Takoma Park has a longstanding history as an early adopter of ranked choice voting, having implemented the system in its municipal elections to enhance voter representation and strengthen democratic participation. The City strongly supports HB 580, particularly as a city that uses ranked choice voting in its elections. Authorizing the use of ranked-choice or approval voting methods allows local governments to tailor their election systems for accuracy and fairness. This bill’s passage would help ensure that election outcomes more fully reflect the will of the voters, while keeping secure and trustworthy election procedures.

For these reasons, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 580 and urges its favorable consideration. This legislation marks an important move to bolster local democratic processes, increase public trust, and reinforce the integrity of Montgomery County’s election system. We believe that these measures are essential to protecting the integrity of our local electoral processes and upholding the values of fair and transparent governance.