

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
and Members of The Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 362- Montgomery County Voting Methods: RANKED CHOICE VOTING and APPROVAL VOTING-
OPPOSE

Dear Chairperson Atterbeary and Members of The Committee'

Equal and fair voting means to vote ONCE for ONE candidate, having ALL votes count the same and the candidate with the most votes wins...plain and simple! Ranked Choice Voting:

- ✚ is confusing and intimidating for voters- Voters may be discouraged from voting in "down ballot" races for local offices due to the extra time to make three choices for each office which may lead to lower voter turnout;
- ✚ is expensive- The fiscal note on the 2019 MD proposal indicated there would be an additional \$1 million cost to implement RCV in Montgomery County alone;
- ✚ complicates and slows the counting of votes and certification of elections- Voters will have to wait for an algorithm to calculate the winner in multiple rounds;
- ✚ allows some voters multiple opportunities to have their vote count while others receive only one opportunity;
- ✚ bases 2nd and 3rd choice votes on a hypothetical situation rather than an informed decisions between known opponents;
- ✚ disenfranchises the voter- In races with a large number of candidates, voters whose preferred candidates receive the fewest votes in a round will have their votes discarded- not even counted;
- ✚ increases the voters' wait in line to vote- Long lines and extensive wait time will discourage voters to do so.

In addition, if passed, this could set a statewide precedent. Let's tally the votes as we always have- the candidate with the most votes wins. In the case of a tie, hold a "real" run-off election in which voters know who they are voting for.

Please vote for an UNFAVORABLE Report for HB 362- Montgomery County Voting Methods- RCV.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price (ACRWC)
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