

HB 423 Montgomery County – Voting Methods MC 1-24

Please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **HB 423**.

Consistency

Judges of the Circuit Court, State’s Attorney, Register of Wills and Sheriff should be elected by a voting method used consistently statewide – the individual receiving the most votes in Round 1 (plurality).

If a county or municipality chooses to move to Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV), the change in voting method should be confined to those offices specific to the jurisdiction.

A review of jurisdictions across the United States currently using RCV shows that the majority apply it only to elections or mayor and council (or equivalent). Specific to HB 423, if implemented, RCV should be limited to County Executive, members of the County Council, and members of the Board of Education.

Cost of Implementation

The bill does not address the cost (how much, who pays) of a change to RCV.

- Existing voting machines cannot accommodate a RCV ballot (sample ballot -- page 2).
- New York City’s 2021 RCV education campaign cost in excess of \$15 million.

Election Integrity

- HB 423 -- Pg 2 Lines 24-25 – “*Any other provision*” is extremely broad.
 - Who determines the certification criteria for the tabulation equipment?
 - Does this allow the county to extend voting rights to non-citizens?
- Programming errors can lead to miscounts.
- Voters may view their vote “wasted” if they voted for a Round 1 “winner” who did not win $\geq 50\%$ and then loses in a subsequent round.
- The time to vote a RCV ballot can increase dramatically when ranking multiple candidates for each office rather than just 1, creating longer lines at the polls.
- How much will RCV delay the final vote?
 - Can a Round 2 count begin before all mailed, overseas, and provisional ballots have been received and opened?
 - Will that delay increase concerns about election security (ballots appear, disappear, get lost)?

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Standard Voting Ballot *How Voting Works in Most States*

<p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:</p> <p>To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> to the right of the name of that person.</p> <p>To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or stick his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> to the right of the write-in line.</p>	For United States President and Vice President <i>(vote for one)</i>	
	<input type="radio"/> Candidate #1	Democrat
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate #2	Republican
	<input type="radio"/> Candidate #3	Libertarian
	<input type="radio"/> Candidate #4	

Ranked-Choice Voting Ballot *Instant Run-Off Voting*

<p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:</p> <p>To vote, fill in the oval like this <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> <p>To rank your candidate choices, fill in the oval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 1st column for your 1st choice candidate. In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice candidate, and so on. <p>Continue until you have ranked as many or as few candidates as you like.</p> <p>Fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.</p> <p>To rank a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in the oval for the ranking of your choice.</p>	United State President and Vice President		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice	7th Choice
	Candidate #1	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Candidate #2	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Candidate #3	Libertarian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Candidate #4	Green	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Candidate #5	Socialism/Libertarian	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Candidate #6	Socialist Workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Write-in		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Source: <https://thefga.org/ranked-choice-voting-is-a-disaster/>



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