

**SUPPORT  
MC 19-18 Montgomery County –  
Ranked Choice Voting**



**POSITION OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK TESTIMONY  
JOINT PRIORITIES HEARING  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

The City of Takoma Park uses ranked choice voting for its local elections. It was first adopted in 2006 and its first use occurred in 2007. We have found it to be a good method for elections and support its wider use.

Ranked choice voting has several benefits: it saves the jurisdiction and candidates money by not having to undertake a run-off election if a majority vote is not reached on the first ballot; in a multi-candidate race for a seat, it allows a voter to vote for his or her preferred candidate as a first choice, even if that candidate is perceived to be less likely to win, while still supporting another candidate the voter believes is acceptable over a candidate the voter believes is not acceptable; and it changes the way candidates campaign in that they may reach out to populations that may be less likely to support them on a first ballot, but may agree to still rank them highly.

The City of Takoma Park has used ranked choice voting successfully. We did need to go to the second round of voting in our City elections last month for one of our ward seats. It was quite exciting but less costly and stressful than having a run-off election for one City Council seat.

**The City of Takoma Park asks for a favorable report on MC 19-18, Montgomery County – Ranked Choice Voting.**

*For more information on ranked choice voting, contact Takoma Park City Clerk Jessie Carpenter at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267.*