



## **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

### **Montgomery County Delegation Public Hearing Education Committee December 17, 2018**

### **Support for MC 29-19 – Montgomery County – Voting Methods**

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The Takoma Park City Council supports MC 29-19, authorizing the Montgomery County Council to adopt a ranked choice voting method or approval voting method for elections, especially for County Executive or County Councilmember. Enabling the option of holding a single special election instead of both a primary special election and general special election would be a cost effective alternative to the current system. There are other benefits to use of ranked choice voting.

Takoma Park has conducted elections using ranked choice voting since 2007. It has been most effective in the special elections to fill vacancies on our City Council. Ranked choice voting enables voters to select additional choices in the event their first choice candidate does not receive a majority or is eliminated. One benefit of this system is to allow voters to select a candidate that is truly their first choice, without the fear of drawing votes from a second choice if the first choice candidate is eliminated.

Since Takoma Park uses ranked choice voting, it is not yet able to lease the election equipment procured by the State as this voting system is not currently accommodated by the programming. We know that it can be done. If Montgomery County has a need to have equipment programmed to accommodate ranked choice voting, we expect it will pave the way for Takoma Park to have the same opportunity.

We urge a favorable vote for MC 29-19, as it is in the best interest of both the City and the County, as well as our residents.