

## Vote for Question B

Montgomery County could soon hold the unique distinction of having the only police department in the state which is managed by the police union and not the chief of police.

As taxpayers, do we really want an Alice in Wonderland police department? No. Neither does the county executive, the County Council, the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee and all prudent residents of Montgomery

County — we are all for Question B.

What does Question B actually do? Despite claims to the contrary, it does not take away collective bargaining rights, the same bargaining rights on wages, benefits and working conditions available to all fire and general county employees. But it does remove a strange, unusual provision called “effects bargaining,” a provision whereby the police chief needs to bargain with the union on any management decision that may have an

“effect” on a union member. Thus if the police chief requires police officers to sign their timesheets, he must first bargain with the union. If the police chief wants police officers to check their email messages, he must first bargain with the union. If the police chief decides how best to distribute new public safety equipment, he must first bargain with the union. Is that the way to run a police department?

Our police officers protect us. They do an admirable job. We recog-

nize that — they have collective bargaining rights and, in fact, more generous disability pensions than those of any other local jurisdiction.

However, “effects bargaining” is beyond the pale. It obstructs and hinders the police chief from efficiently and effectively managing the police department. Ergo, a vote for Question B is a vote for good government.

**Joan Fidler, Bethesda**

*Fidler is president of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League.*

