



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Jim Shalleck
Chair, Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

September 14, 2020

Dear Chair Shalleck:

Thank you for your diligent work to ensure that Montgomery County is prepared for the November 3 election. One of the most important responsibilities of local government is to ensure the sanctity and security of the electoral process, especially in the midst of a global pandemic. In order to support your efforts, we request the Board of Elections to brief the County Council on the measures and progress the Board has taken to ensure a free and fair election. Traditionally, this presentation happens before the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee. However, given the unique circumstances we find ourselves in, we believe a briefing before the full Council is merited.

Considering the numerous ways the upcoming general election will be different than prior elections, which include a drastic reduction in the number of polling locations, a robust mail-in ballot system, and doubts cast by President Donald Trump on the efficiency of the United States Postal Service, it is not surprising that many county residents are anxious, confused and concerned. Many of our constituents have contacted us asking for clarity on mail-in ballots, early voting sites and health precautions voters can take to ensure they are both safe and able to successfully participate in our electoral process.

We appreciate the Montgomery County Board of Elections' diligent steps to adapt the variety of barriers the pandemic has placed in the way of how elections are normally administered, including the State's plan for consolidated polling places on election day and the County Board's approval of our request for a larger number of ballot drop boxes throughout Montgomery County.

In order to support your efforts, we request that the Board provide a briefing for the Council to inform us of the various steps the Board has taken to secure that every voter will receive a ballot and that each ballot will be properly counted.

This upcoming election is expected to have the highest turnout in recent memory, which is why it is essential we take every measure to ensure that voters can safely and securely make their voices heard.



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Thank you again for your work,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Evan Glass in black ink.

Evan Glass
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Sidney Katz in black ink.

Sidney Katz
Council President, District 3

Handwritten signature of Tom Hucker in black ink.

Tom Hucker
Council Vice President, District 5

Handwritten signature of Andrew Friedson in black ink.

Andrew Friedson
Councilmember, District 1

Handwritten signature of Craig Rice in black ink.

Craig Rice
Councilmember, District 2

Handwritten signature of Nancy Navarro in black ink.

Nancy Navarro
Councilmember, District 4

Handwritten signature of Gabe Albornoz in black ink.

Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Will Jawando in black ink.

Will Jawando
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Hans Riemer in black ink.

Hans Riemer
Councilmember, At-Large