



January 26, 2026

## Testimony to the Montgomery County Council

**RE: Bill 5-26, Police – Mask or Facial Coverings – Prohibited (The Unmask ICE Act)**

Dear Council Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) strongly urges the Montgomery County Council to pass Bill 5-26, the Unmask ICE Act.** This bill promotes law enforcement accountability and transparency by ensuring that law enforcement agents are identifiable.

The LWVMC strongly believes that the United States Constitution guarantees individual liberties and is concerned that recent federal immigration actions contravene those liberties. The League also believes that law enforcement must be held accountable.

The Unmask ICE Act prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement from wearing masks while on duty in our county, with narrow exceptions for public health. LWVMC policy positions are consistent with bill's goal to strengthen community safety by ensuring residents can clearly identify law enforcement. Safety requires trust and trust requires transparency. **Our residents must be able to identify those who are policing our streets so that law enforcement can be held accountable.**

As recent events in Minneapolis and across the country have demonstrated, federal immigration enforcement sometimes brings unprecedented violence and cruelty to our communities. The county must therefore institute the transparency measures in the Unmask Ice Act to strengthen legal protections as well as maintain the public trust necessary for local law enforcement to function well.

**Montgomery County must take bold steps to hold federal immigration agents accountable, protect the constitutional rights of all residents, and promote public trust.**

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views. We urge the Council to pass Bill 5-26.

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Vice President for Advocacy  
League of Women Voters of Montgomery County