



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 19, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Board of Elections,

We are writing to express our concerns with the proposal to move the early voting site from the Executive Office Building to the Bauer Community Recreation Center.

Voters are already being subjected to numerous changes for the upcoming election, including a change in the process for voting (relative to the primary). This change alone will require much voter outreach and education. Making additional changes will only add to potential voter confusion.

Additionally, the proposed site is not well served by non-vehicular modes of transportation. The Executive Office Building is one block from a Metro station, is directly served by 6 bus routes with an additional 13 bus routes within one block, and has a bikeshare station on site. Moreover, thousands of people live and work within blocks of the Executive Office Building and can easily walk to vote there. Conversely, the Bauer Community Recreation Center has significantly fewer transit options, with only 1 bus route serving this location. Nor is there a critical mass of people within walking distance of this site.

We realize that the Bauer location is a larger facility, but we are confident that the elections staff will be able to ensure the health and safety of poll workers and voters at the Executive Office Building.

Therefore, we urge the Board to reject the proposal to move this early voting location, to ensure continuity for voters in the Rockville area. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan

Delegate Kumar Barve

Delegate Jim Gilchrist

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr

P.S. We realize the incredible challenge of recruiting a sufficient number of poll workers. We stand ready to assist in your outreach efforts.