



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 14, 2018

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Conway:

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging strongly supports SB 547. The bill changes the voting procedures in Maryland to enable people to vote by mail.

Under the new procedure, all Maryland voters, including older adults, will receive their ballot by mail without having to request an absentee ballot. Voters will be able to vote by returning their ballots by mail or bringing them in-person either to the local election board or the ballot return location designated by the local election board. This would be an especially positive step for older adults because it will enable older adults who do not vote because they are unable to get to the voting location to vote. As such, SB 547 could increase election participation for older adults throughout Maryland. Further, all voters, including older adults, will be encouraged to educate themselves about the candidates and issues and thereby become more informed voters if they know that they will automatically receive a ballot. Having an engaged and informed citizenry is a positive outcome of a mail-in ballot.

Thank you for consideration of our letter of support of the proposed new process to "get the ballot to the voter instead of the voter to the ballot."

Sincerely,

Isabelle Schoenfeld
Chair, Montgomery County Commission on Aging

cc: Leslie Frey
John J. Kenney
Montgomery County Delegation