



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Thursday, September 21, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence J. "Larry" Hogan, Jr.
The State House, 100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Re: Montgomery County Board of Elections

Dear Governor Hogan:

The Montgomery County League of Women Voters is writing to you regarding the current composition of the Montgomery County Board of Elections. At the Monday, September 18, meeting, attended by our regular liaison to the Board, there were four Republican members and one Democratic one. With the resignation of Graciela Rivera-Owen in early July, there are only two Democratic members, and one of them was out of town due to a family emergency. **If the remaining Democratic member had also encountered a family or work emergency, the Board would not have been able to meet.**

It is our understanding that **the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee has provided your office a list of names for the vacancy** shortly after a late July meeting. We respect the confirmation procedure that needs to be followed before a new Democratic member to the Montgomery Board of Elections is appointed. However, we are concerned about this vacancy remaining open, with the increasing 2018 gubernatorial election preparation workload. Currently, the October 16, 2017, Board meeting agenda is scheduled to include decisions on the County's recommended Early Voting centers.

We are urging you to appoint a new member for vacancy in the very near future to return the Board of Elections to full strength, considering the number of important decisions in the next few months that will have major effects on the 2018 electoral process. The League also encourages you to consider the appointment of a person that will help the Board to reflect the **racial and ethnic diversity** of our County. With the current national issues regarding trust in the electoral process, we think it is important that the Board of Elections should reflect our community. Such diversity can only help to instill more confidence in the voting process for all our citizens.

The League appreciates your consideration of our request for the expedited appointment of a qualified person to the current Montgomery County Board of Elections vacancy.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bliss, president

cc (via email): Montgomery County Board of Elections
Democratic and Republican Central Committees