

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1083 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Montgomery County Board of Elections - Membership
MC 6-26

This bill alters the membership of the Montgomery County Board of Elections by requiring the local board to consist of seven regular members (four of the major party and three of the principal minority party) rather than five regular members and two substitute members. If a vacancy occurs, the Governor must appoint an eligible person from the same political party as the predecessor member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Each substitute member serving on the effective date of the bill must become a regular member on the effective date, for the remainder of the member's term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The bill also requires an affirmative vote of at least four (rather than three) duly confirmed regular members of the local board, at least one of whom must be of the principal minority party, to appoint an election director. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect Montgomery County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A local board of elections exists in each county of the State, and each local board and its staff are subject to the direction and authority of the State Board of Elections. Each local board of elections appoints an election director to manage the operations and supervise the staff of the local board.

In Montgomery County, the local board of elections consists of five regular members and two substitute members. Three regular members and one substitute member must be of the majority party, and two regular members and one substitute member must be of the principal minority party. The local board must require an affirmative vote of not fewer than three duly confirmed regular members of the local board, at least one of whom must be a member of the principal minority party, to appoint an election director.

“Principal minority party” means the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the second highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election.

Each regular member of the board and each substitute member must (1) be appointed by the Governor in accordance with a specified appointment process; (2) be a registered voter in the county for which the individual is appointed for the five years immediately preceding the appointment; and (3) be eligible for reappointment.

In the event of the absence of a regular member or a vacancy in the office of a regular member, the substitute member of the same political party must exercise the powers and duties of a regular member until the regular member returns or the vacancy is filled. If a member dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes ineligible, (1) the substitute member belonging to the same political party must become a regular member of the local board and (2) the Governor must appoint an eligible person from the same political party to be the new substitute member.

The term of a member is four years and begins on the first Monday in June of each year following a gubernatorial election.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2026
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