**NCPCA**
North College Park Community Association

College Park Mayor and City Council
7401 Baltimore Avenue Suite 201
College Park, MD 20740

February 9, 2026

Subject: Requested Adoption of Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Mayor and Council of College Park,

The North College Park Community Association (NCPCA), with 189 members, represents College Park residents north of Greenbelt Road and east of Paint Branch Creek. The NCPCA requests that the City Council of College Park takes the necessary steps to enact Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for city elections. We ask that the following be included in any planning:

1. Any pertinent data tied to the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), including, but not limited to: cost, level of effort (i.e. manpower), impact on existing voting procedures, any external communication or educational resources to be made available for the residents of College Park, etc.
2. An opportunity for the NCPCA and, potentially, any other impacted communities and civic associations to review the city's findings and, if necessary, a medium to engage our community and association members for feedback.
3. A timeline for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) implementation.

Our city's current voting system does not give people the option to express their full preferences. To more fully show those preferences, we need a system that empowers voters, is more fair, and is easy to use. Ranked Choice Voting is that system.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference ensuring that winners have broad support rather than simply plurality backing. In addition, you can use as many or few of the provided rankings as you want, meaning you can support the candidates you like even if there's just one.

RCV encourages more civil and issues-driven campaigns. Because voters can indicate backup choices, candidates are incentivized to appeal beyond their core base to be considered as second- or third-choice options. RCV also gives voters more expressive power: they can support their favorite candidate first without fear of "wasting" their vote if that candidate is unpopular. Overall, RCV tends to produce more representative outcomes and can strengthen the legitimacy of elected officials by showing the full support of the community.

One only needs to look at recent examples of City Council races to see the need for RCV. In the 2023 race for District One council seats, five candidates ran. The top two

vote-getters received 30% and 25%, which may not represent voter preferences. In College Park, each of our districts elect two Council seats. To ensure representation is proportional, we need to set a minimum threshold of 33%+1 additional vote to win a Council seat. Mayors should win a minimum threshold of 50% +1 additional vote, guaranteeing majority support from the city.

College Park's City elections have had enough candidates to utilize ranked choice voting. Since 1991, every election year has had at least one city council race with 3 or more registered candidates. RCV could have guaranteed proportional representation.

Ranked Choice Voting is a proven method, utilized by voters across the U.S. in over 50 U.S. jurisdictions. Nearly 14 million voters used this voting method during the 2024 elections. RCV is used statewide for elections in Alaska and Maine. More close to home, RCV has been used by neighboring Takoma Park for close to 20 years and Washington, D.C. will implement RCV in 2026. In November 2025, Greenbelt residents voted 67% in favor of adopting RCV.

This change does not require us to reinvent the wheel. The primary cost associated with implementing RCV in College Park would derive from updating voter education and election administration. Most modern voting machines are RCV capable. Voter education would piggy-back on existing voter outreach methods to set expectations. For example, we could add new informative sections to mailers, update the elections website, and give voters opportunities to practice RCV with low stakes polls. With so many jurisdictions already using RCV, we can use best practices and adapt tools to fit our needs.

The NCPCA would like to see meaningful and tangible progress toward the establishment of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) throughout the city of College Park in its entirety during the current year, 2026. It is time for College Park to use this more fair and representative election system. North College Park Community Association encourages the City Council to adopt Ranked Choice Voting for city elections.