



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

TESTIMONY to the LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE, Mont. Co. delegation
MC 24-19: Montgomery County – Maximum Speed Limit Outside Urban Areas
POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: January 15, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) supports MC-24-19 allowing the authorized maximum speed limit outside urban areas to be altered under established laws.

The intent of this authorization is to provide greater safety for vehicles and their drivers and transit users -- as well as pedestrians and bicyclists.

LWVMC believes a coordination among state and county agencies will increase the availability of safer roads for pedestrians and provide more options than just motorized travel. These options to driving are increasingly important as our roads become more congested.

We fully recognize that the health and vitality of a community depends on residents being accessible to all manner of activity: e.g., work, day care, schools, shops, and pleasure. The trend in this County is to encourage greater numbers of pedestrians and bicyclists, but roads in the past weren't designed nor necessarily have an appropriate speed limit for safe usage. As the county becomes more densely populated, effective evaluation measures and changes should be made available for use on roads. No matter how one travels, everyone is a pedestrian for some portion of the journey.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, when considering the death rate for all collisions in 2015, 15% involved pedestrians. More surprising, was that 32% of these collisions were on minor roads and 76% took place in urban areas. The rates of these deaths occurred at non-intersections 74% and intersections 26% of the time.

With this bill, Montgomery County is attempting to improve upon some of these traffic statistics by providing more flexibility in the maximum speed limit law.

The LWVMC urges a favorable report of MC-24-19.

Yours truly,
Nancy Bliss, President
Bee Ditzler, Chair, Transportation and Land Use Committee

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