RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR
TO RECONSIDER HIS VETO OF HOUSE BILL 1417

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia requested the General Assembly to consider eliminating split voting precincts in Montgomery County by making minor technical adjustments to House Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County, Virginia as a means to reduce potential voter confusion and save taxpayer dollars by reducing the number of ballots in the split precincts; and

WHEREAS, The Virginia General Assembly approved HB 1417 making minor technical changes to the Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County in order to eliminate split voting precincts in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Virginia vetoed House Bill 1417 citing both the constitutional concerns with changing electoral districts outside the ten year redistricting cycle and the fear that House Bill 1417 would set a precedent of allowing the legislature to make substantive changes to electoral districts more frequently than once a decade which may interject partisanship into the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of House Bill 1417 is not to reapportion or make substantive changes to House Districts 7, 8 and 12 in Montgomery County but to make minor technical boundary changes by relocating a very small number of voters within these three House Districts in order to eliminate split precinct voting; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Governor reconsider his veto of House Bill 1417 so that the proposed minor technical changes to House Districts 7, 8, and 12 can move forward in an effort to avoid voter confusion and the unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars by eliminating split precinct voting in Montgomery County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Governor to reconsider his veto of House Bill 1417 and allow the proposed technical changes to House Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County to go forward in an effort to avoid voter confusion and taxpayer expense by eliminating split precinct voting in Montgomery County.

DRAFT

April 2015

The Honorable Governor Terry McAuliffe
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

I write to you on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors to urge you to reconsider your veto of House Bill 1417 which proposed technical changes to House Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County in an effort to avoid voter confusion and taxpayer expense by eliminating split precinct voting in the County.

The purpose of House Bill 1417 is not to reapportion or make substantive changes to House Districts 7, 8 and 12 in Montgomery County but to make minor technical boundary changes by relocating a very small number of voters within these three House Districts. The intent of the Board of Supervisors in requesting these specific changes through House Bill 1417 was only to eliminate split precinct voting and the associated confusion among voters.

Given the minor technical changes and the small number of voters that would be relocated, we request that you reconsider your veto of this legislative change and allow House Bill 1417 to move forward and eliminate split precinct voting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I will be glad to provide any additional information that you or your staff may require regarding our specific circumstances that led to the submission of House Bill 1417.

Sincerely,

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator

FCM/jk