



FAQs: Appointment of New Planning Board Members

Process of appointing temporary acting Planning Board members

Q: Why did all the members of the Montgomery County Planning Board resign?

The Montgomery County Council lost confidence in the Planning Board and was united in taking the steps necessary to ensure that the Montgomery County Planning Board operates effectively and that the Planning and Parks Departments continue their important work for our community. This change was necessary to reset operations.

Q: What is the timeline for appointing temporary acting Planning Board members?

The Council moved with deliberate speed to solicit applicants to serve as temporary acting planning board members with expertise in land use, planning, economic development, transportation, and environmental and park issues.

Residents interested in applying were asked to send a letter of interest and resume to the Council by Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. More information on the process is posted on the Council's webpage.

The Council is scheduled to interview the top temporary acting Planning Board candidates during its Council meeting on Oct. 25. The Council is scheduling a second Council meeting on Oct. 27 to appoint temporary acting Planning Board members.

Q. How will the interview process be conducted?

The top temporary acting Planning Board candidates will be interviewed by Councilmembers during the Council's public meeting on Oct. 25.

Q: How will the work of the Planning Board continue until October 27?

The Council has met with, and has full confidence in, Acting Planning Director Tanya Stern to continue operations at Montgomery Planning. There will be no loss of service for residents and planning work will continue.

Q: Why appoint temporary acting Planning Board members?

Temporary acting Planning Board members will provide continuity of service for residents and keep projects moving. Temporary members will work with the acting director and serve as a bridge to the new Planning Board appointed by the next Council.

Q: What legal authority does the Council have to appoint temporary acting Planning Board members?

The designation of temporary acting officials is a longstanding and necessary part of government operations. Maryland law supports the Council's action to temporarily fill these vacancies to allow government to function and ensure continuity of service.

Q: Will a list of applicants be publicly available?

The list of top candidates that the Council chooses to interview will be published on the Council's website.

Q: Will interviews for temporary acting Planning Board members be open to the public?

Interviews and appointments will be televised live on County Cable Montgomery and streamed through the Council's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Q: Can the appointed temporary acting Planning Board members all be from the same political party?

No more than three members of the Planning Board may be from the same political party, and each member must be a resident and registered voter of Montgomery County.

The position can be filled by a Democrat, Republican, a voter who is unaffiliated with a party, or a voter who is a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections.

Q: Are financial disclosure statements required from applicants?

Financial disclosure statements are required from each person selected to serve.

Filling Planning Board positions for the remainder of the terms

Q: Who will appoint the Planning Board positions to fulfill the remainder of the members' terms?

The new Council, which will be inaugurated on Dec. 5, will be charged with filling the five seats for the remainder of the terms.

Q: Can any of the commissioners reapply for service? What about the temporary members? Could they be selected to serve permanently?

Anyone who is a Montgomery County resident, and a registered voter of the County can apply or reapply for service on the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Q: How long will the temporary appointees serve?

The new Council will be charged with appointing the members to serve out the remainder of the terms for each of the five Planning Board positions. The new Council will be inaugurated on Dec. 5.

Temporary Acting Planning Board Appointment Timeline

Oct. 18 at 5 p.m.: Application deadline closed

Oct. 19: Council begins application review

Oct. 25: Top candidates interviewed at Council meeting

Oct. 27: Council appoints five temporary acting Planning Board members

Dec. 5: New Montgomery County Council inaugurated