



# County Council

## Montgomery County, Maryland

### About the Council

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The Montgomery County Council is the legislative branch of County Government. It has eleven members, all elected at the same time by the voters of Montgomery County for four-year terms. The terms of the present Council, elected November 2022, began at noon on December 6, 2018 and will continue until noon on the first Monday in December 2026.

Five members of the Council are elected by the voters of their respective council districts. Four members are elected at-large by all the voters of the County. The Council officers are elected by the Council from among its members in December for a one-year term. Officers for 2022 to 2023 are:

President: Evan Glass

Vice-President: Andrew Friedson

As of December 3, 2019, the Council President receives a salary of \$154,408.18 per year. The other members receive a salary of \$140,371.07 per year.

### The Council's Responsibilities

The County Council's responsibilities are specified by the County Charter and state law. Some of the Council's principal responsibilities are:

- Appropriates money to fund the capital and operating budgets and sets the local property tax rate and other local taxes.
- Approves all land use plans including the General Plan, area master plans, and sector plans prepared by the Planning Board.
- Acts on zoning changes.
- Exercises oversight over County programs to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
- Approves the six-year capital improvements, public services, and fiscal policy programs.
- Approves the county Ten Year Solid Waste and Water Supply and Sewerage System Plans.
- Serves as the Board of Health for Montgomery County.
- Enacts all County laws and amendments to the Code.
- Sets the tax rates required to fund the County budgets.
- Confirms major appointments made by the County Executive and appoints the members of the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.
- Acts on or initiates reorganization plans for the County government's executive branch.
- Directs and reviews the annual independent audit of County government operations.



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### **When the Council Meets**

The Council generally meets on Tuesdays beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Council meets other days in committees and frequently holds public hearings and forums in the evenings. Nearly all Council meetings are open to the public.

### **Council Procedures**

The Council conducts business in the following manner:

- An item of business is introduced at a regular Tuesday session. The public is notified through the advance agenda and Council report and the Council's website.
- The Council schedules a public hearing if required by law, which is advertised in Montgomery County newspapers as well as in the agenda. Special measures may be advertised by press release.
- After the public hearing, the Council holds committee and full Council worksessions. For worksessions, the staff prepares a packet of material for the Council's consideration that summarizes issues raised.
- Worksessions are open to the public and are publicized through the agenda mailing. After the worksessions, the item is brought before the Council for final action, usually at a regular Tuesday session.

### **Standing Committees**

There are six Council standing committees. Each Committee has budget review and program oversight responsibilities. Some cross-cutting issues may be reviewed by two committees meeting jointly.



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### About The Council - How The Council Is Organized

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The Charter provides that the Council shall elect a president to preside over meetings. The Council elects a president and a vice-president each December for a one-year term.

The Council President is responsible for setting the Council's agenda and work schedule, reviews and signs all official documents of the Council, responds to the major portion of the correspondence addressed to the Council, and acts as spokesperson. In recognition of these additional responsibilities, the Council President receives a salary 10 percent greater than the salary of the other Councilmembers.

### Standing Committees

There are currently six Council standing committees which are described below. Each Committee has budget review and program oversight responsibilities. Some cross-cutting issues may be reviewed by two committees meeting jointly.

In some of the committees, an individual other than the Chair has been designated as the Lead Councilmember for an issue or group of issues. Lead Councilmembers take the initiative in developing agenda items in their areas of responsibility and act as chair of the committee when their items are being discussed.

Council committees customarily meet on Mondays and Thursdays. During the Council budget seasons (January through June), committee sessions are held more frequently.

### Economic Development (ECON)

- **Jurisdiction:** Issues relating to economic development.
- **Members:** Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Chair; Marilyn Balcombe; Evan Glass; Laurie-Anne Sayles

### Education & Culture (ED)

- **Jurisdiction:** Issues relating to Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy, and Community Use of Public Facilities
- **Members:** Will Jawando, Chair; Gabe Albornoz; Kristin Mink

### Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO)

- **Jurisdiction:** Economic and fiscal policy; spending affordability; County Government administrative departments; cable and telecommunications issues; technology issues; personnel and compensation issues; procurement policy; oversight of interagency teams on training, public information, procurement, and PEG (public, education, and government) cable television channels.
- **Members:** Kate Stewart, Chair; Andrew Friedson; Sidney Katz



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### Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **Jurisdiction:** The Department of Health and Human Services and all associated issues and organizations; libraries and the arts; culture, and the humanities.
- **Members:** Gabe Albornoz, Chair; Dawn Luedtke; Laurie-Anne Sayles

### Planning, Parks and Housing (PH)

- **Jurisdiction:** Master Plans and amendments to the zoning laws; issues related to parks and recreation, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Montgomery County Planning Board; historic preservation; economic development; housing, and agricultural preservation; and Recreation.
- **Members:** Andrew Friedson, Chair; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; Will Jawando

### Public Safety (PS)

- **Jurisdiction:** The Police Department, State's Attorney's Office, the Circuit Court, Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission; Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Animal Control and Office of Consumer Protection
- **Members:** Sidney Katz, Chair; Dawn Luedtke; Kristin Mink

### Transportation & Environment (T&E)

- **Jurisdiction:** Water and sewer issues and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; issues relating to environmental protection and conservation, including forest conservation; and solid waste issues, County infrastructure issues including public transportation, roadway and street construction and maintenance.
- **Members:** Evan Glass, Chair; Marilyn Balcombe; Kate Stewart