



Montgomery County Council Public Hearing: FY27 Operating Budget

April 8, 2026, 1:30 pm

Dawn Potosky Testimony Representing the Montgomery College Alumni Association Board of Governors

Good afternoon, Council President and members of the Council.

My name is Dawn Burns Potosky, and I am the President of the Alumni Association Board of Governors for Montgomery College. The Alumni Board of Governors is made up of 23 alumni who are dedicated to advancing our alumni community's personal, educational, and professional growth.

We represent hundreds of thousands of alumni who live and work in the county and far beyond.

I am also a proud alumna of Montgomery College - class of 1980!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of Montgomery College and its FY27 operating budget request.

Montgomery College changed the trajectory of my life. I was a first-generation student, and MC provided me with an accessible and affordable education, which allowed me to build a long professional career. Like so many students in our community, I benefited from an excellent education provided by talented and dedicated faculty. MC created a supportive and diverse learning environment for me then, and now, the current students I speak with frequently describe it similarly.

And Montgomery College is more than an educational institution - **it is a gateway to opportunity**, especially for first-generation students, working adults, and immigrant families. My service on the Alumni Board is my way of giving back because I know how the College can change someone's life.

Montgomery College is a cornerstone of our county. 87% of MC alumni stay in the County to live and/or work, and the College adds 1.4 billion dollars to the county's economy. MC's equity and inclusion efforts reflect the importance and value that our community, within Montgomery County, places on these issues.

At Montgomery College, students are prepared for careers, transfer to four-year universities, and have lifelong success. The value of this extends far beyond our campuses - to local businesses, families, and our community at large. Investing in Montgomery College is truly an investment in Montgomery County! For FY27, Montgomery College is requesting a \$6.3 million increase in new dollars to help protect affordable tuition and to provide employee compensation adjustments. This investment is essential to maintaining both accessibility for students and support for dedicated faculty and staff who make student success possible.

Today, I respectfully urge the Council to please fully fund the Montgomery College operating request. The full funding of this request ensures that current and future students can continue to benefit from the same opportunities that I, and so many others, have had.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued support of Montgomery College!