



**Public Hearing  
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget  
April 8, 2026**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) appreciates the opportunity to share its priorities related to the FY2027 Recommended Operating Budget. Our foremost priority is to support investments that create jobs, stimulate economic activity, and enhance the quality of life in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County is navigating a period of significant economic uncertainty, marked by federal workforce reductions, housing shortages, and a pervasive affordability crisis. These challenges must be addressed with fiscal discipline and responsible budgeting that avoids tax increases. The Chamber urges the Council to carefully consider the cumulative impact of raising taxes and fees on residents and businesses. As an alternative, MCCC requests that Councilmembers prioritize reducing the size of the budget and slowing the rate of government growth.

Montgomery County's economy is struggling, and that must change. A strong and effective economic development infrastructure is essential to reversing this trend. For this reason, MCCC supports funding for the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). We strongly believe in MCEDC's mission, have confidence in its new leadership under Jared Smith, and view this funding as a vital investment in the County's long-term economic growth and tax base.

The County must also strengthen its ability to attract and retain a talented workforce. To that end, MCCC supports investments in education through a responsible and affordable Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) budget. MCPS plays a critical role in preparing both today's and tomorrow's workforce. In addition, MCCC supports the budget requests for WorkSource Montgomery and Montgomery College, which are essential to training and preparing a local workforce that meets employer needs and supports the overall economy.

While the business community supports strategic investments that promote economic growth, those investments are increasingly overshadowed by proposals that would undermine the County's competitiveness. The Chamber firmly opposes the proposed 6.3-cent property tax increase. Businesses and residents are already struggling with the cost of living in Montgomery County. In recent years, rising costs have made the County less attractive to employers and have impeded economic growth.

The Chamber also strongly opposes the proposed increase in the County's income tax rate to 3.3 percent. Such an increase would further erode Montgomery County's competitiveness and affordability, making it more difficult to attract businesses, workers, and investment at a time when economic growth is already constrained. Continuing this path is unsustainable and detrimental to the County's long-term competitiveness.

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The Chamber is also concerned about proposals to increase the Solid Waste Disposal Charge, create special taxing districts for commercial properties, and implement a 30 percent increase to the 911 fee. MCCC appreciates Council President Natali Fani González's decision to table discussions of the Solid Waste Disposal Charge and special taxing districts until after the operating budget is finalized.

As always, MCCC looks forward to partnering with the Council on strategies that move Montgomery County forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance as you continue this important work.

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.*

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