

FY2024 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024



A MESSAGE FROM OFFICIALS



December 30, 2024

Dear Residents of Montgomery County:

We are pleased to present our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) of Montgomery County, Maryland (the County) as of and for the fiscal year (FY) ended June 30, 2024. The County received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the County's PAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. An award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year. We believe this PAFR continues to meet the PAFR Program's requirements.

The PAFR is a companion document to the County's award-winning Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), and is designed to present information about the County's finances and financial results in a more user-friendly format. It is a summarized and condensed version of the County's FY 2024 ACFR, and represents the County's continuing commitment to excellence and financial transparency to its residents. This report also includes some information that is supplemental to the ACFR.

The ACFR is a detailed and complete financial report, prepared annually by the County's Department of Finance, in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America (GAAP). The public accounting firm of SB & Company, LLC has performed an independent audit of, and issued an unmodified (clean) opinion on, the County's financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This PAFR and the full ACFR are both available on our website

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/financial.html.

Sincerely,



Richard Madaleno Richard Madaleno Chief Administrative Officer



Michael J. Coveyou Michael J. Coveyou Director of Finance

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Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

Montgomery County Maryland

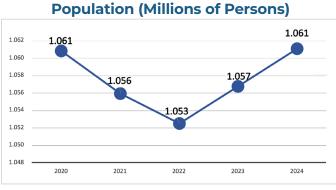
For its Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

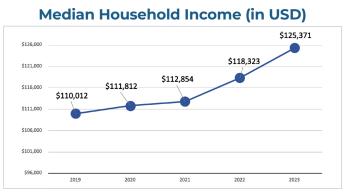
Montgomery County At-A-Glance

Montgomery County, named after the early American general, Richard Montgomery, was established in 1776 by the State Convention. Currently, the County has the highest population and is one of the most affluent jurisdictions in Maryland.

County's Selected Demographics

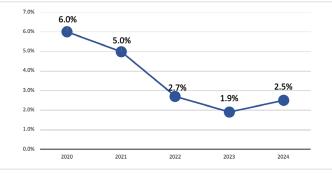


Source: FY 2024 ACFR Statistical Table 23



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Unemployment Rates



Source: FY 2024 ACFR Statistical Table 23



Top 10 Employers in Montgomery County

- 1.) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- 2.) Montgomery County Public Schools
- 3.) Montgomery County Government
- 4.) U.S. Department of Commerce
- 5.) U.S. Department of Defense
- 6.) Adventist Healthcare
- 7.) AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP
- 8.) Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring
- 9.) Montgomery College
- 10.) Giant of Maryland, LLC

Source: FY 2024 ACFR Statistical Table 22

Montgomery County Quick Facts

Governing Authority:	Montgomery County Charter
Form of Government:	County Council/Executive
Population Rank in Maryland:	1st
Land Area Rank in Maryland:	5th
Median Age:	40.6 years old
Homeownership Rate:	64.4%
Total Households:	392,629
Employment Rate:	66.9 %
Bachelor's Degree or Higher:	61.0 %
Diversity	43.4% persons with language other than English spoken at home

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, based on 2020-2023 data

ELECTED OFFICIALS



Marc Elrich County Executive



Andrew Friedson Kate Stewart Council President **Council Vice President**

Will Jawando

Councilmember



Councilmember

Dawn Luedtke

Councilmember



Marilvn Balcombe

Councilmember

Kristin Mink

Councilmember



Evan Glass



Natali Fani-González Councilmember





Laurie-Anne Sayles

Councilmember

ORGANIZATION

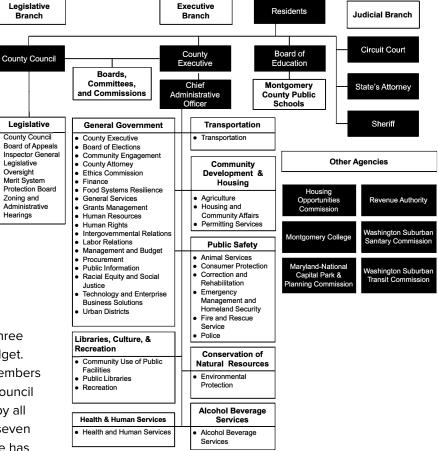
Sidney Katz

Councilmember

The County government was structured under the County Commission System until 1948, when voters adopted a charter to give the County home rule and a Council-Manager form of government. The charter remains the governing authority of the County and was fully implemented in 1970 with the election of an executive and a council.

The Executive Branch implements and enforces the County's laws and provides executive direction to the government. Its chief executive officer is the County Executive. There are over 30 executive branch departments and offices that help to deliver services to County residents.

The Charter defines the Council's powers in three major areas: legislation, land use, and the budget. There are eleven Council members. Seven members are elected by the voters of their respective council districts. Four members are elected at-large by all the voters of the County. There are currently seven Council standing committees. Each Committee has budget review and program oversight responsibilities. Some cross-cutting issues may be reviewed by two or more committees meeting jointly.



INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following represent accomplishments and initiatives, which include both activities that began during FY2024 and those planned for future fiscal years:



Thriving Youth and Families

• Increased financial assistance available to qualified residents from \$200 to \$400 per person per calendar year in an effort to make more Recreation programming available to County residents that receive social services from other County agencies.



A Growing Economy

• Increased staffing and efficiencies allowed the Business Center to assist more than 1,000 businesses to start and grow in the County, an increase of 230 percent from 2022.

• Launched a client management system that provides faster, more reliable customer service to businesses. The system also ensures the County is tracking required metrics for the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act.



A Greener County

• Provide funding and staff to implement zero waste initiatives that divert material from the traditional waste stream, like food scraps collection and processing and expanding the type of materials that can be recycled.

• Procure approximately 100 electric Ride On buses in FY 2024-2027. The buses will operate at the Silver Spring and Gaithersburg bus depots to fully utilize the solar microgrids at these locations.



Easier Commutes

• Implement the Great Seneca Transit Network in two phases to provide frequent transit options and improve mobility and access to crucial jobs in the healthcare, biotech, and educational sectors. The first phase, which includes Ride-On Extra service on the new Pink and Lime transit lines, will launch in fall 2024. The Pink route links the busy Shady Grove corridor with the Life Sciences Center via Medical Center Drive. The Lime route uses 1-370 to provide an express route to RIO, Crown Farm, and the heart of the Life Science Center.



An Affordable and Welcoming County for a Lifetime

• The County allocated \$160.5 million for affordable housing, including \$13.5 million in the Montgomery Housing Initiative Fund, \$97.0 million in the Affordable Housing Acquisition and Preservation CIP project, and a total of \$50.0 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 in the Nonprofit Preservation Fund Capital Improvements Programs.



Safe Neighborhoods

• Expand the innovative *Drone as First Responder* program allowing for quick and efficient police response to incidents in Bethesda, Gaithersburg, and Germantown.

• Continue to expand weather and flood monitoring equipment throughout the County to enhance real-time situational awareness and forecasting in preparation for and response to major weather events.



Effective, Sustainable Government

• A new Election Worker Management System is currently being built to leverage a modern framework and mitigate vulnerabilities in the existing application. The new system will streamline the communications, recruitment, training, and staffing of election workers and Future Vote students as well as the future administration of elections.

• Implemented a new website chatbot powered by generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology with close consultation from the Department of Technology & Enterprise Business Solutions, MC311, Community Engagement Cluster, and public safety stakeholders; resident focus groups were also conducted with assistance from Innovation@MCG. The chatbot, Monty 2.0, replaces the existing website chatbot (Monty 1.0) previously deployed in April 2021. Implementing the Monty 2.0 chatbot improves the resident experience and exponentially expands the information available for public consumption, allowing residents to acquire County services-related information from over 3,000 topics.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In FY 2024 Montgomery County's economy continued to experience growth in its key industry sectors, including healthcare and life sciences, which includes job growth and retention as well as new capital investment.

The County works closely with the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) to provide essential resources to businesses that are expanding and relocating in the County. In FY 2024, MCEDC assisted with projects that created or retained 2,263 jobs in the County. Projects that MCEDC supported in the fields of biotechnology, cybersecurity, commercial real estate, and hospitality added over \$284 million in capital expenditure.



Other Business Statistics:

- \$8.2 billion in private venture capital invested in County companies
- The Biohealth Capital Region rose from #4 to #3 among national biotechnology hubs
- Montgomery County was home to seven of the top 10 Maryland companies that were included on the Inc. 5000 list (2023)— Gen3 Technology Consulting (Gaithersburg); 20/20 Gene Systems (Gaithersburg); hyrUP (Potomac); Windsor Group (Bethesda); myDigitalOffice (Bethesda); Axiom Consultants (Rockville); and Yellow Tail Tech (Silver Spring).

Several economic development projects occurred in FY 2024 that will guide strategic future growth in the County. Some of these projects are:

- University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing
 (UM-IHC) UM-IHC opened its new headquarters in North
 Bethesda in early 2024. The 10-year sublease comprises
 over 27,000 square feet of state-of-the-art technology and
 office space, and will serve as the institute's temporary home.
 In July 2024, the County and the Washington Metropolitan
 Area Transit Authority announced a formal partnership and
 preliminary developer solicitation to build up to 3.7 million
 square feet of life science-focused mixed-use development
 in North Bethesda on Metro-owned land, which will be
 anchored by a \$200 million facility for UM-IHC.
- Viva White Oak Baltimore-based MCB Real Estate is currently working with stakeholders and public officials to refine the Viva White Oak project, a 280-acre master planned community. This community is anticipated to include over 85 acres of open space, up to 4,500 quality residences (townhomes and single family homes); and over six million square feet of shops, restaurants, commercial uses, higher educational uses, and biomedical/biotech labs, offices, and research and development facilities, with a focus on the life sciences and biohealth industries. Construction of Phase 1 will begin in early 2025.
- AstraZeneca announced plans to take over 198,000 square feet at 700 Progress Way in Gaithersburg - reinforcing its commitment to continued growth in the county life sciences corridor, where it already employs 4,500. Additionally, the company established its newest manufacturing facility investing \$300 million to turn an existing building in Rockville into 85,000 square feet of production space for next generation T-cell therapies for cancer treatment.
- United Therapeutics Corporation, the first publicly traded biotechnology company organized as a public benefit company, entered a partnership with Montgomery County valued at over \$100 million to expand the company's footprint in downtown Silver Spring by 40% and allow the company to grow from its current 230 employees.



TAXES

Taxes constitute the largest source of County revenues. Property and local income taxes accounted for 91.0% of all County tax revenues. In FY 2024, property tax revenue accounted for \$2,206.9 million or 36.8% of total revenues of the County, along with income tax accounting for \$1,939.7 million or 32.3% of total revenues. The major tax supported functions are Education, General Government, Public Safety and Health & Human Services.

Applicable rates for key tax sources are as follow:

- The weighted average real property tax rate was \$1.0255 per \$100 of assessed value in FY 2024. This rate includes a supplemental tax levy for Montgomery County Public Schools, which was approved by Council in FY 2024. Still, the County's property tax rate is among the lowest of the jurisdictions in the surrounding area.
- The local income tax rate was 3.2% of State taxable income for FY 2024, consistent with the FY 2023 rate.

The County's property values are higher than the previous peak value in FY 2010. The taxable assessments for real property increased 4.2% from FY 2023 to FY 2024. This was the eleventh consecutive increase since FY 2014.

Changes in home prices may affect both the property tax assessments and the transfer and recordation taxes. The average price for existing home sales was up 5.1% in FY 2024. In contrast, collections from residential transfer taxes decreased 12.8% from FY 2023. Overall, the total transfer taxes for both residential and non-residential were down 13.7% in FY 2024. Total recordation tax collections decreased 15.6% in FY 2024.

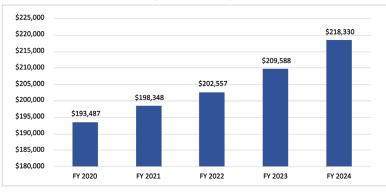
The homestead tax credit limits annual increases in homeowners' taxable assessments to 10% per year; other taxable assessments such as those on commercial and investment residential properties are not limited by this credit. The homestead credit is the amount of annual assessment growth above the 10% limit, and the forgone revenue from the homestead tax credit was \$297.0 million in FY 2024.

Montgomery County Major Tax Rates

Average Weighted Real Property Tax (per \$100 assessed value)	\$1.0255
Individual Local Income Tax	3.2%
Recordation Tax (per \$500 of consideration)	\$4.45-\$11.35
Transfer Tax	.25% - 6%
Hotel-Motel Tax	7%
Admissions & Amusements Tax	7%
Note: There is no local sales tax in the State of Maryland	

Source: Montgomery County Department of Finance

Real Property Assessed Value Trend (in Millions)



Source: Montgomery County FY 2024 ACFR Statistical Table 8

Home Sales and Average Home Prices Montgomery County



Source: Montgomery County Department of Finance

COUNTY FINANCIAL RESULTS

In the County's ACFR, the financial statements present the primary government and its five component units:





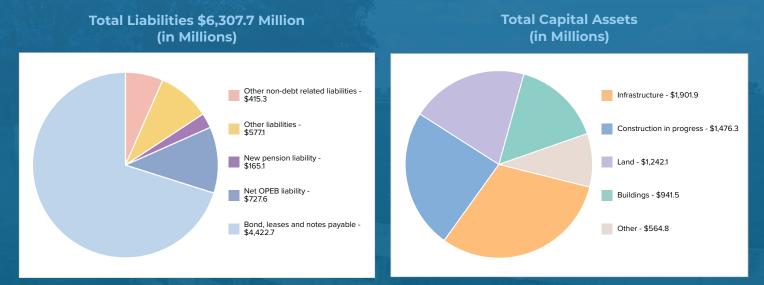






In contrast, this PAFR mainly focuses on the Primary Government and excludes discrete component unit and fiduciary fund information. It contains condensed financial information and does not provide all the necessary financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP. This PAFR also exclusively extracts the financial information from government-wide financial statements, which present a long-term perspective about the County's assets, liabilities, deferred outflows/inflows of resources and net position. Government–wide financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. Net Position is the financial position of the County after subtracting liabilities and deferred inflows of resources (what the County owes) from assets and deferred outflows of resources (what the County owns).

The County's current and other assets increased by \$123.4 million or 3.5% from FY 2023, which was mainly driven by the increase in income taxes receivable. Capital assets, which totaled \$6,201.6 million at the end of FY 2024, are growing to support infrastructure needs in the community. Total capital assets increased by \$137.7 million from FY 2023, and investments in land, infrastructure, construction in progress, and buildings were the primary drivers of the increase.



Summary of Net Position June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 (in Millions)

Total Primary Government					
	2024	2023	2022		
Total Assets	\$9,880.1	\$9,619.0	\$9,979.5		
Deferred Outflows of Resources	713.1	437.0	364.8		
Total Liabilities	(6,307.7)	(6,346.5)	(6,546.7)		
Deferred Inflows of Resources	(746.3)	(834.2)	(1,565.2)		
Total Net Position	\$3,539.2	\$2,875.3	\$2,232.4		

COUNTY FINANCIAL RESULTS

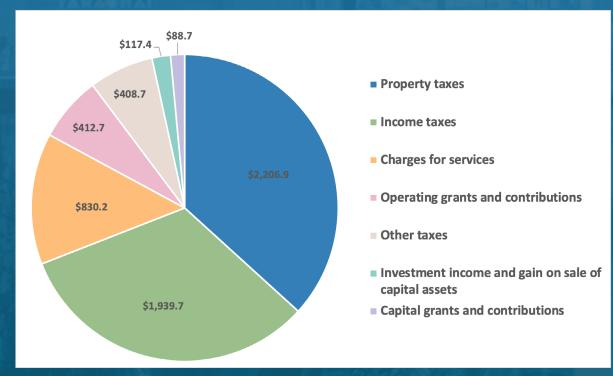
The County provides a variety of services exclusively to its residents and businesses. Like all governments, the County raises funds to pay for those services. These sources of funds, referred to as revenue, are raised mainly through taxes, charges for services and grants. Once the County collects taxes and other revenues, the funds must be spent efficiently to provide services. The condensed version of the summary of Changes in Net Position provides a snapshot of the flow of money in and out of the Primary Government. Change in Net Position is a strong measure of the County's overall financial health. The County's total government-wide net position increased by \$663.9 million from FY 2023. This increase means that the County's revenues were more than sufficient to cover all expenses, and the County's net position increased.

The chart below shows the breakdown of revenue sources coming into the County in FY 2024.

	Sum	nmary	of Cha	nges i	in M	let Po	sition		
For the	Fiscal	Years	Ended	June	30,	2024,	2023,	and 2	2022
			(in N	/illion	s)				

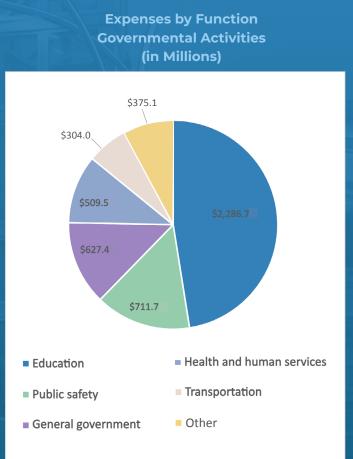
Total Primary Government						
	2024	2023	2022			
Total Revenues	\$6,004.3	\$5,965.9	\$5,593.5			
Total Expenses	5,340.4	5,323.0	4,729.3			
Change in Net Position	663.9	642.9	864.2			
Net Position, Beginning of Year	2,875.3	2,232.4	1,368.2			
Net Position, End of Year	\$3,539.2	\$2,875.3	\$2,232.4			

Revenues by Source (in Millions)



COUNTY FINANCIAL RESULTS

The chart below shows the breakdown of FY 2024 County expenses. The Primary Government consists of governmental activities and business-type activities. Governmental activities normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues and are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for services.



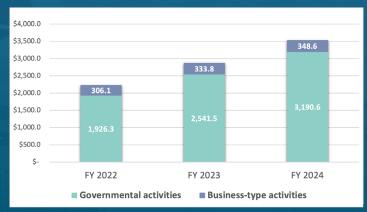
Expenses by Function Business-type Activities (in Millions)



- Education is the largest expense category with 43% of total expenses in FY 2024
- Public safety comprises 13% of total expenses in FY 2024
- General government comprises 12% of total expenses
 in FY 2024

Governmental activities experienced an increase in net position of \$649.1 million for FY 2024; Business - type activities experienced an increase in net position of \$14.8 million for FY 2024. The FY 2024 total change in net position of \$663.9 million for the Primary Government was an increase compared to prior years, primarily due to major increases in property tax revenues. Expenditures for the General Fund that were \$34.8 million less than the final budget also contributed to the change in net position.

Net Position -Primary Government (in Millions)



LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

Reserves

As part of the annual operating budget process, the County develops and retains a structurally balanced six-year fiscal plan. This plan addresses long-term structural issues in the budget, maintains the General Fund reserves at the required policy levels, and emphasizes the priorities of education, public safety, affordable housing, transportation, and health and human services.

The County is required to maintain a reserve in the General Fund, the County's chief operating fund, of 10% of adjusted governmental fund revenues (AGR), The balance of the Revenue Stabilization Fund, as defined in the County's Revenue Stabilization Fund law, is included in the General Fund reserves. The Revenue Stabilization Fund was established by the County to accumulate funds during periods of strong economic growth to provide budgetary flexibility during times of funding shortfalls. Total reserves as of June 30, 2024, were \$1,028.0 million, or 15.9% of AGR. Further information on reserves can be found in the County's ACFR.









RETIRE

Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Beginning in FY 2008, the County implemented a plan to set aside funds for retiree health benefits, similar to the County's 50-year-old practice of pre-funding for retiree pension benefits. Due to exponential growth in expected retiree health costs, the County had determined the cost of funding these benefits, which were being paid out as the bills came due, would become unaffordable. Setting aside money now and investing it in a trust fund, which is invested in a similar manner as the pension fund, is a prudent and responsible approach that will result in significant savings over the long-term. During FY 2024, the County and other contributing entities contributed \$65.6 million for current premiums, claims and prefunding future benefits.

In FY 2024, the County reported a net OPEB liability of \$727.6 million. Further information regarding the County's OPEB plan, funding policy, and financial reporting can be found in the County's FY 2024 ACFR and the Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust's FY 2024 annual report on the County's website: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcerp/trustees.html

LONG-TERM CAPITAL PLANNING

Capital Improvements Program

The Montgomery County Charter (Section 302) requires the County Executive to submit a comprehensive six-year program for capital improvements, called the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Council approves the six-year program on a biennial basis with opportunities for limited amendments in the intervening years. The CIP is the presentation of capital project expenditure estimates, funding requirements, capital budget requests, and program data for the construction of all public buildings, roads, and other facilities planned by County agencies over a six -year period. It includes all capital projects and programs of all agencies for which the county sets tax rates or approves budgets or programs. According to the FY25 Approved Capital Budget, there are 521 total projects in operation.

The following charts present how the approved FY25-30 six-year \$5,935.2 million CIP budget (excluding Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission) is funded by major sources and expended by categories.





FY25-30 Six-year CIP Expenditure (in Millions)





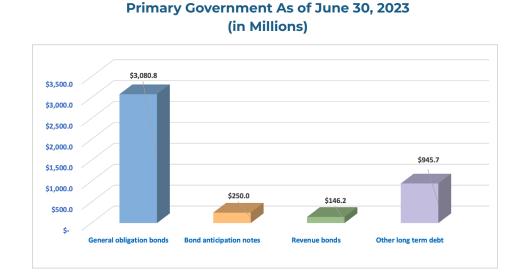
Major Capital Project In Progress: 6th District Police Station

The 6th District Police Station project provides for planning, design and construction of a new 28,294 gross square feet 6th District Police Station and a new parking garage of 59,526 gross square feet in two levels to serve Gaithersburg/ Montgomery Village and vicinity. The Station will be in a new development located on extended Watkins Mill Road between I-270 and MD-355. The district station is a facility consisting of two floors and parking for the public and staff.

See details for this project and all other capital projects at: <u>https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/</u> <u>Common/Index.aspx</u>

LONG-TERM DEBT

The County is authorized by State law and County Charter to issue debt to finance capital projects. Consistent with County fiscal policy, the County issues debt to finance a major portion of the construction of long-lived additions or improvements to the County's publicly-owned infrastructure. The County's budget and fiscal plan for these improvements is known as the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Bonds are repaid to bondholders with a series of principal and interest payments over a period of years, known as debt service. In this manner, the initial high cost of capital improvements is absorbed over time and assigned to current and future residents benefiting from the facilities. Due to various Federal, State, and local tax policies, interest rates are lower than in the private sector.



Long-Term Debt Outstanding -

As of June 30, 2024, the County's total bonds, leases and notes payable were \$4,422.7 million. General Obligation (G.O.) bonds comprise 70% of total longterm debt. Currently, G.O. bonds are anticipated to fund approximately 30% of the County's capital expenditures for the six years of the approved FY25-30 CIP. The adjacent chart shows the County's long-term debt outstanding at the end of FY24.



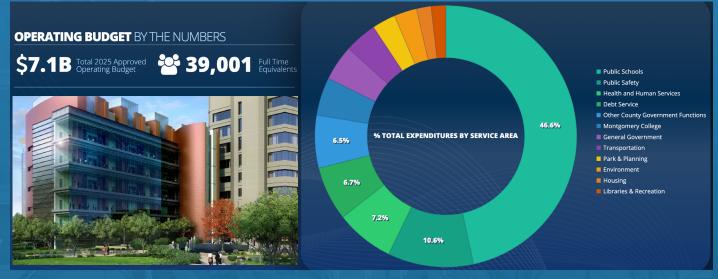
Since 1973, the County has consistently maintained a Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. Bonds issued by the County since July 1976 have consistently been rated AAA by S&P Global Ratings and by Fitch Ratings., since 1991. Montgomery County is one of only 14 "Triple AAA" rated counties in the nation with a population greater than one million. These highest-level ratings reflect the County's growing and diverse economy, its substantial tax base, strong financial position, and strong financial management. The AAA rating means the County pays lower interest rates and can therefore build more schools and facilities for residents' tax dollars.

To improve the County's budget flexibility, to balance the needs of the operating and capital budgets, and to maintain the County's AAA credit rating, the County will maintain an annual G.O. bond issuance of \$280 million for the next five years. This will slow the growth of the County's debt service payments and help the funding of other critical programs and services.

OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2025 Approved Operating Budget

The Operating Budget and Public Service Program covers the costs of running the County. It pays for the transportation worker who fixes a pothole, powers the lights at your local library, provides health and human services and much, much more. Funds are set aside to operate each County department and agency. This also includes the Debt Service, the County's annual loan payment for long-term Capital Projects for which the County borrows money.



The County approved a total County Operating budget from all sources of \$7.1 billion which is \$369.7 million or 5.5% more than the FY 2024 budget. The chart indicates how the budget is distributed. For details, please visit the County's Office of Management and Budget website:

https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISOPERATING/Common/Index.aspx

Service Area 🌲	Appropriation 🖨	% of Total 😒	FTE's 🖨
Montgomery County Public Schools	\$3,322.3M	46.6%	24,764.54
Public Safety	\$755.4M	10.6%	4,106.93
• Health and Human Services	\$511.0M	7.2%	2,002.27
Debt Service	\$480.1M	6.7%	0.00
Other County Government Functions	\$460.6M	6.5%	484.36
O Montgomery College	\$334.7M	4.7%	1,926.35
General Government & Other Functions	\$315.1M	4.4%	1,675.67
O Transportation	\$286.2M	4.0%	1,226.53
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	\$205.9M	2.9%	1,169.51
O Environment	\$200.6M	2.8%	250.59
Community Development and Housing	\$129.8M	1.8%	379.93
D Libraries, Culture, and Recreation	\$128.9M	1.8%	1,014.38

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COUNTY'S OPEN DATA PORTAL

Popular Annual Financial Report developed and prepared by:

Department of Finance

Michael J. Coveyou Director of Finance

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Cheyenne Williams Accountant/Auditor

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Barry Hudson Director of Public Information Office

> Sean Clark Visual Information Specialist

Special Thanks To:

Efforts of the Department of Finance's Controller Division Staff without which this project would not have been possible

Montgomery County Open Data Portal

More County financial and budget information can be found at: https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/





dataMONTGOMERY

Direct access to County data sets in consumable formats is available here. The public can review and analyze, and use the data sets for a variety of purposes.



Open Budget

Provides you with an intuitive way to understand how our budget is structured and get the answers you need.



CountyStat

See how the County and its departments are performing by exploring performance dashboards and data visualizations.



Property Taxes

View property tax records to view and/or make payments on-line by credit card or bank account as appropriate.





Department of Finance Division of the Controller 101 Monroe Street Rockville, Maryland 20850 240-777-8860

This and other County financial reports are available at: <u>https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/financial.html</u>