

WLB

Women's Legislative Briefing

Stronger Together: *Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - **Chair's Networking Breakfast: Invitation Only**
BUILDING II - Multipurpose Room

11:30 AM - **General Registration & Resource Fair Opens**
BUILDING II (General Registration) & BUILDING III (Resource Fair)

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM - **Welcome and Introductions**
BUILDING II - Multipurpose Room

- **Sheena Foster:** Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women
- **Dr. Anne Khademian:** Executive Director, The Universities at Shady Grove
- **Betty Romero:** First Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women & Women's Legislative Briefing Co-Chair
- **Janet LaValle:** Second Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women & Women's Legislative Briefing Co-Chair
- **Patricia Prather:** Chair, WLB Emerging Leaders Committee
- **Nina Nassiri:** Emerging Leaders Speaker
- **Honorable Marc Elrich:** Montgomery County Executive
- **Honorable Natali Fani-González:** Montgomery County Council President, District 6

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - **Keynote Panel: Visionary Women: Shaping Tomorrow Together**

- **Honorable Angela Alsobrooks:** U.S Senator, State of Maryland
- **Honorable Aruna Miller:** Lieutenant Governor, State of Maryland
- **Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk:** Speaker of the House, Maryland House of Delegates

Moderator: **Marissa Mitchell:** News Anchor, Fox 5 D.C.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM - **Break & Resource Fair**
BUILDING III - First Floor



2:30 – 3:30 PM • BREAKOUT SESSION 1

All breakout sessions will be held in Building III (unless otherwise noted)

Empowering Women's Wellness: Cycles, Change, and Choice

Room 2230

- **Honorable Laurie-Anne Sayles**, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council, At-Large
- **Dr. Carol Botts**, Member, AARP Maryland Speakers Bureau
- **Ana Rodney**, President and Legislative Director, Maryland Families for Safe Birth

Moderators: Commissioners Shannon Owens Harden and Mital Gajjar

Women's Work, Women's Worth: Closing the Gap

Room 3202

- **Kate Bahn**, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, Institute for Women's Policy Research
- **Julie Kashen**, Senior Fellow and Director for Women's Economic Justice, Century Foundation
- **Honorable Pamela Queen**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-14

Moderators: Commissioners Mia DeMezza and Tiffany Boiman

Advocacy Essentials: Turning Passion into Action

Room 3241

- **Honorable April McClain Delaney**, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives, D-6
- **Sara Morningstar**, Legislative Analyst, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Montgomery County
- **Kelli Dominique Hudson**, Founder, Peridom Insights

Moderator: Commissioner India Hunter

Voices for Safety: Ending Violence Against Women

Room 3230

- **Lisae Jordan**, Executive Director and Counsel, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- **Laure Ruth**, Public Policy Director, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
- **Joyce King**, Deputy State's Attorney, Frederick County State's Attorney's Office

Moderator: Commissioner Lakshmi Darbha

2:30 – 3:15 PM • EMERGING LEADERS SESSION 1

Middle School (6th-8th Grade): Speak Up! Building Confidence, Communication, and Leadership

Room 4212

- **Gabe Alborno**, Director, Montgomery County Recreation
- **Isabel Argoti**, Deputy Director of Programs, Community Bridges
- **Isabella Wise**, Street Outreach Network
- **Sheryl Freedman**, Leadership Academy for Social Justice Lead Teacher, MCPS

Moderator: Nina Nassiri, Senior, Northwest High School

High School (9th-12th Grade): Mic Check: Youth Voices in Advocacy

Room 4215

- **Honorable Joe Vogel**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-17
- **Danielle Blocker**, Executive Director, Young People for Progress
- **Anuva Maloo**, Student Member of the Board, MCPS Board of Education

Moderator: Ansuya Bisbey, Senior, Richard Montgomery High School

3:30 – 4:00 PM • BREAK

Resource Fair and Refreshments - BLDG III

4:00–5:00 PM • BREAKOUT SESSION 2

All breakout sessions will be held in Building III (unless otherwise noted)

Unlocking Care: Solutions for Women's Health Access

Room 2230

- **Robyn Elliott**, Managing Partner, Public Policy Partners
- **Honorable Lesley Lopez**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-39
- **Stephanie Klapper**, Deputy Director, Health Care for All

Moderator: Commissioner Michelle Buteau

The Future is Female: Women Leading Change

Room 3202

- **Angela Franco**, President and CEO, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC)
- **Karen Sippel**, Managing Director, Maryland Women's Business Center
- **Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-17

Moderators: Commissioners Mital Gajjar and Jodi Danis

Amplify Your Voice: Digital Tools for Modern Advocacy

Room 3241

- **Danielle Moxley**, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
- **Katie Peterson**, Communications Director, Office of Congresswomen Sarah Elfreth
- **Amaya Smith**, Vice President for Marketing & Communications, National Partnership for Women and Families

Moderator: Commissioner Elizabeth Richards

Your Rights, Your Power: Understanding Legal and Civic Protections

Room 3230

- **Camille Brewer**, Delegate, UN Commission on the Status of Women, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County
- **Honorable Natali Fani-González**, President, Montgomery County Council
- **Michelle Whitaker**, Executive Director, Ranked Choice Voting Maryland

Moderator: Commissioner Shannon Owens Harden

4:00–4:45 PM • EMERGING LEADERS SESSION 2

Middle School (6th–8th Grade): Speak Up! From Learning to Leading

Room 4212

- **Gabe Alborno**, Director, Montgomery County Recreation
- **Isabel Argoti**, Deputy Director of Programs, Community Bridges
- **Isabella Wise**, Street Outreach Network
- **Sheryl Freedman**, Leadership Academy for Social Justice Lead Teacher, MCPS

Moderator: Nina Nassiri, Senior, Northwest High School

High School (9th–12th Grade): Digital Power: Using Social Media to Create Change

Room 4215

- **Joseph Hooks**, Founder and Director, 480 Club
- **Honorable Teresa Woorman**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-16
- **Matt Post**, Former Student Member of the Board, MCPS Board of Education

Moderator: Ansuya Bisbey, Senior, Richard Montgomery High School

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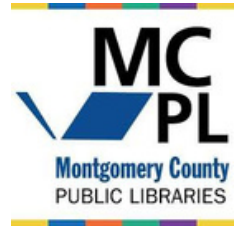


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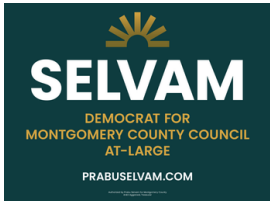
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

SPRING PROGRAMS


Separation and Divorce: What Do I Need To Know?
Feb. 4 • Mar. 4 • Apr. 1 • May 6 • Jun. 3

Girl Power Contest
March 1 - March 31

Financial Health and Wellness
May 12th • May 19th • May 26th • June 2nd

Career Series
Dates TBD

Self Defense Classes
Dates TBD



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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw

A special thanks to our photographer David Ris!