



Montgomery County *Commission for women*

Nancy Navarro, Councilmember, District 4



Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro has resided in Maryland for over 26 years. She received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Missouri (Columbia).

Throughout her career, Nancy has worked to improve the lives of Montgomery County residents. Montgomery County is a majority people of color jurisdiction as well as the largest populated County in Maryland with over a million residents. She was first elected to represent District 4 on the Montgomery County Council in a special election on May 19, 2009, and was re-elected to the Council in 2010, 2014 and 2018 where she has twice served as Council President and Vice President. She chairs the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee and serves on the Education and Culture Committee. In 2011, former President Barack Obama appointed Nancy to the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, where she served on the Early Childhood Education Committee. Prior to joining the Council, she was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education. During her tenure at the Board she served two consecutive years as President. In 2008, as a member of the MCPS Board of Education, Nancy successfully introduced a Translation Unit into the school system.

Nancy has used her position on the Council to encourage economic growth and development in traditionally underserved regions. She worked tirelessly to move the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, the Wheaton Revitalization Project, and funding for commercial revitalization along New Hampshire Avenue in Colesville, through the Council. To go along with the Wheaton Revitalization Project, Nancy sponsored Bill 6-12, which created the Small Business Assistance Program, which assists small-business owners whose livelihoods would be directly impacted by the new development. This program allows small-business owners to receive funds from the program to remain competitive. Nancy also sponsored Bill 49-16, which created Montgomery County's Microloan Program, enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to access needed funding and technical assistance. This in turn has encouraged the growth of entrepreneurship in lower-income communities across the County.

She has been an ardent advocate for dedicated funding for early quality and accessible early childhood education and pre-K. She was a lead sponsor of Bill 13-15, which created the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative, providing technical assistance, training, and mentoring to prospective and licensed family child care providers. Additionally, Nancy's leadership was instrumental in creating the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Fund, which leverages private dollars to fund high-quality programs that are both sustainable and scalable.

In 2018, as Council President, she spearheaded the successful introduction and adoption of Bill 27-19, the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act. Bill 27-19 was the culmination of a Presidency focused on advancing Racial Equity in Montgomery County- through community conversations around the County, residents were encouraged to think about Equity, and to provide input for policymakers as Bill 27-19 was drafted. Bill 27-19 reflects Montgomery County's identity, and cements Nancy's legacy as a champion of structural reform.

Nancy authored the framework for the County's Early Care and Education Initiative, and the Economic Development Platform Resolution, both launched during her Council Presidency. The Early Care and Education Initiative is a \$7 million-dollar investment to provide access to a top and quality early education. The Economic Development Platform Resolution is a guiding document that identifies a thriving and diversified economy, greater innovation, racial equity and social justice, and environmental sustainability as desired outcomes. The goal of the resolution is to grow the County's tax base by creating new, well-paying job opportunities, removing regulatory barriers for new businesses seeking to locate or expand operations in the County, and investing in business development, housing, transportation and workforce development.

In 2019, Nancy was elected Co-Vice President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), in recognition of her leadership in passing a resolution calling for Montgomery County Government to work towards meeting housing targets set forth by MWCOC. These targets came about as a result of the Housing Workgroup which she had sat as a member.

Nancy has led the charge on important pieces of legislation including pay equity, minimum wage, sick and safe leave, human trafficking, and living wage enforcement. She was recognized in 2019 as one of Washingtonian's top 150 women in the region for her work in local politics and government. Today, Nancy continues to fight for her constituents, and continues to lead the charge on these and many other areas including civic engagement. In 2011, she launched the Latino Civic Project (LCP), a linguistically and culturally proficient project, to strengthen the civic participation of the immigrant community, especially women, in the decision-making process. This is achieved through workshops and activities that empower and offer a greater understanding of what it is to be civically engaged, in order to advocate on issues that positively affect changes in the community.

Before entering public office, Nancy co-founded a non-profit, community-based organization to assist with the economic and educational development of Latino and other immigrant communities.