

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO CONTROL SPENDING

This is a petition pursuant to Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution and Section 507 of the Charter of Montgomery County to submit to voters of Montgomery County in the next general election a proposal to amend the Charter of Montgomery County to limit the authority of the County Council to approve an aggregate operating budget which exceeds the aggregate operating budget for the preceding fiscal year by a percentage increase greater than the annual average increase of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area, or any successor index, for the twelve months preceding December first of each year, except by a vote of all current Councilmembers that a greater increase is justified by an emergency, by deleting “seven Councilmembers” from the first sentence in Section 305, Paragraph 2 of the Charter of Montgomery County and replacing that language with “all current Councilmembers, following a finding by all current Councilmembers that an emergency justifies such an increase.”

Upon amendment, Section 305, Paragraph 2 of the Charter of Montgomery County shall read:

An aggregate operating budget which exceeds the aggregate operating budget for the preceding fiscal year by a percentage increase greater than the annual average increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for all urban consumers for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) , or any successor index, for the twelve months preceding December first of each year requires the affirmative vote of all current Councilmembers, following a finding by all current Councilmembers that a public emergency, as defined by Section 2-17(a) of the Montgomery County Code, justifies such an increase, after at least 3 public hearings in each County Council District with at least 30 days’ notice. For the purposes of this section, the aggregate operating budget does not include: (1) the operating budget for any enterprise fund; (2) the operating budget for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; (3) expenditures equal to tuition and tuition-related charges estimated to be received by Montgomery College; and (4) any grant which can only be spent for a specific purpose and which cannot be spent until receipt of the entire amount of revenue is assured from a source other than County government.

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By Authority – Committee to Control MoCo Spending – Victoria Birkett, Treasurer.