

2026 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) advances a unified, nonpartisan agenda that strengthens **economic mobility, educational excellence, housing affordability, transportation reliability, federal workforce stability, climate resilience, and cultural vitality** across Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. These priorities reinforce statewide competitiveness, protect vulnerable communities, and support Maryland's long-term economic health.

FEDERAL STABILITY ACTIONS – A Top Statewide Priority

Montgomery County has one of the largest concentrations of federal workers, agencies, and contractors in the United States. Federal funding decisions directly influence Maryland's economy. CfM urges the General Assembly to:

- **ADVOCATE FOR IMMEDIATE FEDERAL FUNDING RESTORATION** and protections for Maryland's federal workforce.
- **HIGHLIGHT MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S ROLE AS A STABILIZING FORCE** during periods of federal uncertainty.
- **PROMOTE POLICIES THAT SAFEGUARD SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS** dependent on federal contracts.

Stabilizing federal operations protects Maryland families, strengthens state and local tax bases, and secures the region's innovation ecosystem.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FEDERAL WORKFORCE STABILITY

- Strengthen biotech and life sciences partnerships.
- Support skills-based workforce pipelines.
- Protect federal workforce stability and contracting activities.
- Urge the State of Maryland to strengthen small business programs

Biotech advancement and federal employment are Montgomery County's dual economic engines—driving research, small-business growth, and statewide revenue.

EDUCATION – Protect the Blueprint & Modernize Schools

- Sustain **Blueprint for Maryland's Future** investments.
- Expand childcare capacity.
- Prioritize **school construction** to relieve overcrowding and upgrade aging facilities.

Strong schools fuel Maryland's talent pipeline, economic competitiveness, and long-term workforce strength.

CLIMATE & RESILIENCE – Protect Vulnerable Communities

- Expand equitable clean-energy upgrades.
- Invest in resilience strategies to reduce heat, flooding, and pollution.

Climate impacts hit vulnerable communities hardest. Preventing damage reduces long-term state costs and improves community health.

TRANSPORTATION – Modernize Funding & Stabilize WMATA

- Update Maryland's transportation revenue formulas.
- Secure a long-term multi-state WMATA funding agreement.
- Invest in safer, more reliable transit and pedestrian infrastructure.

Transportation access determines economic mobility, workforce reliability, and climate progress.

HOUSING – Preserve Local Authority & Expand Affordability

- Increase state affordability investments.
- Defend **local zoning authority** to ensure thoughtful, community-specific planning.

Maryland needs more affordable homes for teachers, first responders, seniors, and young families. Stable zoning prevents displacement and supports workforce retention.

ARTS & CULTURE – Strengthen an Economic Engine

- According to the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the county's arts sector generates approximately **\$183 million in economic activity**, supports **nearly 4,000 jobs**, and contributes over **\$5 million in local tax revenue. State support is needed to:**
- Stabilize nonprofit arts organizations.
- Expand cultural access statewide.
- Support capital needs and operating recovery.
- Arts organizations fuel local economies, education, community vitality, and tourism.