



It's a new year and the County is hitting the ground running; but first, I want to say thank you for your commitment and willingness to roll up your sleeves: sending letters, making phone calls, posting on social media, commenting on news articles, coming out in the middle of the day to protest, and to Kimberly, for being the only caller able to get through to the KoJo Nnamdi show. All of this, showed the County we weren't going to let them steamroll over us without a fight. This is what **we** did! By setting aside our differences and working with other individuals and other organizations in Montgomery County, we were able to hold off a Council vote on Thrive Montgomery 2050. Remember, if Councilmember Riemer had his way, Thrive would have come up for a vote in September, when very few people knew about it.

There's no rest for the weary. As I said before, the County has hit the ground running. With little public notice, no press releases, and no consistency among the five Regional Service Centers (RSC), the County Council has asked each RSC to hold a community meeting to gather public input on Thrive Montgomery 2050. Like the Council listening sessions in November and December, these are not hearings. But it's extremely important that our voices are heard. Please plan to attend a virtual meeting in your community, and be sure to share with everyone you know. We **can** do this! We **must** do this! If you don't know which RSC is yours, there's a map at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Government/rsc.html>.

Below is the schedule for these meetings, along with questions from the County Council.

"Regional Service Advisory Board Committee meetings on Thrive Montgomery 2050 to further expand the Council's outreach and provide additional input on the draft plan based on interests from across the County."

The meeting dates are as follows and will be on Zoom.

[Visit the CEC web page for contact information](#) to obtain the Zoom link for each meeting :

Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. East County Advisory Board Committee meeting;

Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. Silver Spring Advisory Board Committee meeting;

Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. Mid-County Advisory Board Committee meeting;

Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. UpCounty Advisory Board Committee meeting; and

Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Western Montgomery County Advisory Board Committee meeting

Questions for Community Members from County Council

1. Is this vision consistent with your views of how the County should develop and grow over the next three decades?
2. In your opinion, what are the three most important issues facing the County as it relates to land use (such as availability of affordable housing, accessible, convenient and reliable transportation, access to parks and open space within your community, preservation of historic and environmental resources, and proximity to jobs, retail, entertainment, arts and culture).
3. Does Thrive address these issues in its vision, policies or practices? If not, what would you add or change?
4. In order to maintain and improve the County's quality of life, what issues should the County focus on in the next 20-30 years- if these are different from the issues discussed earlier?
5. Do the policies and practices in Thrive provide sufficient guidance to address these issues? If not, what would you add or change?

Please take a moment to let the County know how they're doing?

Montgomery County Launches 2021 Biennial Online Resident Survey, With Response Deadline of Jan. 17

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich today announced that the County has started conducting its biennial online survey of County residents. The survey is available on the County website and is designed to get residents' assessment of the local government, its services and their quality of life. The survey will be open until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 17.

The survey is available [here](#).

"I encourage all residents of Montgomery County to take this survey," said County Executive Elrich. "We want to ensure that the feedback we get is inclusive and reflects the County's diversity and we want everyone to have an opportunity to share their opinions with County Government on the services we provide. The pandemic required us to make some significant changes to the way we deliver some services. This survey is one way for us to assess how we are doing, what people think of the changes we made, and identify areas for improvement."

The 39-question survey asks residents age 18 or older to rate how they feel about the quality of life, County services, use of existing amenities and facilities, whether they take advantage of County programs, their impression of County employees, how well the County communicates with its residents, and various household practices such as recycling. It is recommended that respondents use a browser other than Internet Explorer to minimize problems accessing the survey.

To generate a more equitable sample, the survey was mailed to 5,000 randomly selected households with instructions in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, Vietnamese, Persian/Farsi and Amharic. However, the survey is open to all residents. Households that received the mailed survey should use the link and access code contained in the mailer.

This biennial survey was last conducted by the County in 2019. This survey is an important tool to create better customer service, more transparency, and provide ideas and feedback to help the government make better budget and policy decisions to create a more effective and efficient service.

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