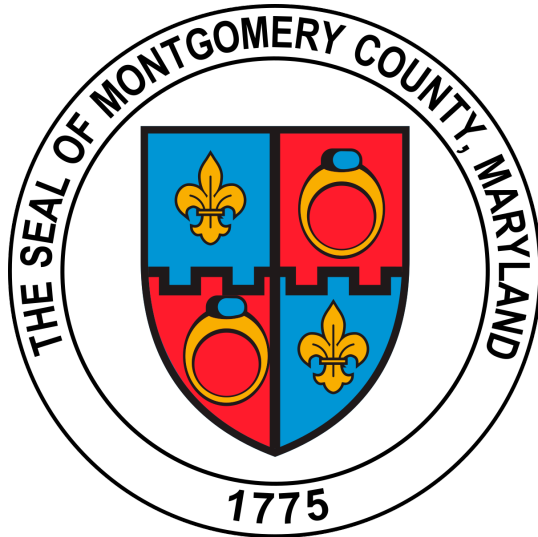




Five Priorities for Montgomery County



1) Double NIH Funding: Dementia is a serious problem in our country. It costs us too many lives and puts a serious strain on our healthcare system. Currently, [the nation spends \\$259 billion per year caring for people with dementia and that cost could rise to \\$1.1 trillion by 2050. Yet the NIH only spends \\$480 million per year researching dementia.](#)

I propose doubling the budget of the NIH. Even before Trump was President, it was drastically underfunded. Every dollar we put in is a great investment that will more than pay for itself in the long run. And it will create thousands of good paying jobs right here in Montgomery County.

2) Universal Pre-K: There's no question that higher income kids start off with an advantage before Kindergarten even begins. [One study shows that higher income kids will have heard 30 million more words by age three than their low-income peers.](#)

We should make sure all students start off right with Universal Full-Day Pre-K. It is one of the best investments that a government can make, and it has a huge impact on reducing high school dropout rates down the line. [For every dollar we invest in early education, we get seven dollars back in economic growth.](#) Over time it can even pay for itself through reduced crime rates, higher incomes, and reduced usage of government services. Montgomery County now [offers pre-K and head-start options to children from families with low incomes](#), which is a great start. But let's make this a national priority so that the county can provide full-day Pre-K to all children.

3) Expand I-270: We need to fix I-270 with new express lanes from the American Legion Bridge all the way through Frederick, and regional express-bus service using those new dedicated lanes. The federal government needs to step up and provide some of the funds. Montgomery County residents know all too well how much time they spend sitting in traffic. That's time that they can't be with their families and be involved in their kids' education. This is unacceptable.

4) Affordable Housing: Affordable housing is a serious issue in Montgomery County. Estimates show that [Montgomery County will need 33,000 to 50,000 more housing units](#) for families who make less than \$100,000 over the next decade. Trump's budget will make matters worse. An analysis done by Affordable Housing Online shows that Montgomery County stands to [lose more than \\$22 million in HUD funds annually](#) if Trump's budget goes into effect. In Congress, I will not only oppose the cuts, but will work to make sure that Montgomery County is an affordable place to live with a great quality of life.

5) WMATA: It's no secret to anyone in Montgomery County that WMATA needs serious improvements. We need to address both the funding and the governance. [I support Congressman Delaney's bill](#) that will provide \$75 million in federal funds for WMATA, while requiring that qualified professionals be appointed to the Metro board of directors.