

2010 County and State Elections: Why Care?

**Help Decide Who Runs in the General Election:
Hear At-Large Council Candidates on Sept. 2
And Vote in the Primaries on Tues., Sept. 14**

Thirteen candidates running for four At-Large Montgomery County Council seats, to represent the entire County, will discuss critical issues at a public forum on September 2, 7 p.m., 4H Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Over the next four years, Council members will legislate issues that affect our lives—budgets, building density, education, taxes, transit, and much more.

Here are candidates' brief bios and answers to the question why residents should vote for them:

Democrats

Marc Elrich (incumbent) (www.marcelrich.com)

I'm a DC native who has lived in Montgomery County since 1960, raised my family here, and attended County public schools and the University of MD and later Johns Hopkins. A longterm civic activist, I also served 10 terms on the Takoma Park City Council and taught elementary school for MCPS for 17 years.

I've worked with civic groups and communities, been a community advocate on issues involving growth and development, housing, the environment, education and social concerns. I've been a voice for fiscal accountability and responsibility. I believe that as the County plans for the future, people living here today need to be involved in that process. My Rapid Transit proposal has won praise as a practical and creative way of addressing both traffic and environmental problems.

Fred Evans (www.friendsforfredevans.org)

Fred retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools after a successful 30-year career. He has been a county leader and community activist in a variety of organizations and political initiatives.

Fred will be "Your Voice in Your Government." He is committed to communicating effectively with all residents, maintaining and enhancing our school system, guaranteeing the safety of all residents with a strong police department and fire and rescue services, managing growth and development effectively and ensuring that new programs are supported within the current tax structure. Fred believes that he has the leadership skills and knowledge of our county to be an effective Councilmember.

Nancy Floreen (incumbent) (www.nancyfloreen.org)

Council President Nancy Floreen is completing her second term as an at-large member of the County Council, chairing its Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee and serving as an active member of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee. Over the past 30 years, she has been an engaged community advocate, ranging from work as a community land use attorney, PTA president at East Silver Spring Elementary School, eight-year member of the Montgomery County Planning Board, and Mayor of Garrett Park.

Nancy is committed to working with communities to address their concerns. Her priorities have always been preserving our quality of life, improving educational and economic opportunities for all, and ensuring the County's fiscal sustainability. While there are no easy answers to our challenges, her hard work, careful listening and collaborative problem-solving have brought the Council through a difficult budget, unanimous agreement on controversial master-plan visions, and an unprecedented fiscal plan for our future.

George Leventhal (incumbent) (www.georgeleventhal.com)

George Leventhal, a Democrat, was elected to an at-large seat on the Montgomery County Council on November 5, 2002 after many years of active involvement in local politics and community affairs. He is currently serving his second term in office and chairs the Council's Health and Human Services Committee.

Should he be granted a third term, his top priority will be to help stabilize our economy and attract jobs and investment. Caring for Montgomery County's neediest residents and the environment are his biggest accomplishments during his first two terms. His signature programs include Montgomery Cares, for the uninsured, and the Housing First Initiative for homeless families and individuals.

Raj Narayanan (www.rajnarayanan.org)

Raj Narayanan is the current president of University Towers Condominium where he has instituted process re-engineering to save over \$400,000 in the annual \$5 million budget. He is also a volunteer yoga teacher and executive director of Life in Yoga Foundation, holds a Ph.D. in economics, teaches in local business schools, and has been a management consultant doing process re-engineering to reduce costs.

If elected, he will not support any increase in tax burden. He will seek to reduce costs through process re-engineering without cutting services. Until such savings are found, he will recommend temporary reduction of salaries for management staff in the county government to enable meeting the budgetary goals. He will seek to restructure the long-term county finances and seek to beef-up capital replacement reserves, ensuring no long-term pressure to increase taxes.

Hans Riemer (www.hansriemer.com)

I live in Silver Spring with my wife, Angela, and our preschooler, Henry, and as a community advocate I have fought for better public transportation in Montgomery County. In my professional life, I organized the national coalition that stopped Bush from privatizing Social Security, have worked for AARP, and as a key early staffer for Obama, I developed the strategy that got young people out to vote in the primaries.

Like many, I came to Montgomery County to raise a family. As we face difficult economic times, I want to make sure the County remains a great place for families. I will work hard to support quality public schools, and I will fight to protect our neighborhoods and environment by changing development rules to prioritize walking, public transportation and biking. I am endorsed by the *Washington Post*, Montgomery County's teachers, and the Sierra Club.

Duchy Trachtenberg (incumbent) (www.voteduchy.org)

Councilmember Trachtenberg is the Montgomery County Council's Finance Committee chair and has been called the Council's fiscal watchdog. Before winning election to the Council in 2006, Ms. Trachtenberg was a well-known and respected advocate for mental health issues and women's rights.

Councilmember Trachtenberg has been a consistent voice for fiscal responsibility, having led the Council in the adoption of a six-year fiscal plan and improved reserve fund policy. Ms. Trachtenberg has a solid record of accomplishment, having initiated the county's Family Justice Center, a one-stop shop for domestic violence victims; passed the first bill reforming the county's disability retirement system; and just introduced one that defines a two-tier system of benefit.

Becky Wagner (www.beckywagner.org)

Becky Wagner, a 40-year county resident, started Montgomery County's first shelter for homeless women, served on the staff of U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes for six years, and for 11 years has lead Interfaith Works, a professionally managed nonprofit of

110 employees and 7,000 volunteers, serving the low income community. She co-chaired the Vote No on Ficker amendments, Stop Slots and Safety Net Coalitions and has been endorsed by numerous organizations and individuals including the teachers (MCEA), Montgomery County Business PAC and B-CC Chamber PAC, former County Executive Doug Duncan and Senator Paul Sarbanes.

Our elected officials must model civility and commitment to constructive problem-solving. Sen. Paul Sarbanes's endorsement speaks to this, "A strong and effective advocate, Becky will bring her superb problem-solving abilities and her dedication to the public good to the challenges facing the county. She is a proven leader of intelligence and integrity and I urge the citizens of Montgomery County to give Becky Wagner this opportunity to serve them on the Council."

Jane de Winter (www.janedewinter.org)

I am a long-time resident of Kensington and hold a Ph.D. in economics and have taught at American University. I am past president of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Children and Youth.

With a doctorate in economics, four children educated in our public schools, and years of service to our community, I offer a unique set of skills to help resolve the tough problems faced by County government in the years to come. I believe my expertise will help strengthen our economic base and bring more jobs to the county while safeguarding our schools. I am endorsed by Montgomery County NOW, Montgomery Women, and Montgomery Green Democrats.

Republicans

Robert Dyer (www.robertdyer.net)

Robert Dyer is a professional musician and internationally-distributed recording artist. Robert also has a B.A. in history and is an advocate for the disabled and victims of domestic violence.

Robert Dyer is the only candidate with a detailed Fiscal Plan to turn our structural deficit into a surplus. Watch the video at RobertDyer.net. Robert is the only candidate who supports full funding for MCPS, and all-day pre-K for every child.

Robert's Jobs Plan builds on our existing aerospace firms, and our proximity to Goddard and Wallops Island, to make Montgomery County the new space industry capital.

Brandon Rippeon (www.votebrandonrippeon.com)

Brandon Rippeon, 38 years old, is a lifetime County resident and currently campaigning full-time for County Council At-Large. I am a former managing partner with Ourisman Automotive, and I hold a master's degree in public administration.

As an individual with a high level of business acumen, I will bring a desperately needed new perspective to the County Council. I will work to protect all taxpayers' investment in the County by making sure our tax dollars are effectively and efficiently spent. One political party rule, which is what we have here in MoCo, is not healthy. It is time for new ideas to be heard.

Mark D. Fennel

Mark D. Fennel was born in Bethesda, MD in 1965 and was educated at Vassar College (B.A. political science) and Northfield Mount Hermon Preparatory School. Mr. Fennel, serving his third Republican nomination for Montgomery County Council, has a Heritage Foundation and Citizens Against Government Waste pedigree.

I kicked off my 2006 campaign for County Council with the following quote in *The Gazette*: "For the future prosperity of Montgomery County and its residents, it's critical that an austerity program be put in place to curtail this vicious pattern of unrestrained and unsustainable spending." (GOP newcomer making bid for County Council," Dec. 14, 2005). Today, we've seen a \$1 billion budget deficit; a Ponzi scheme has come

crashing down. VOTE Tea Party Fennel!

Green Party

George Gluck (www.bridgesights.com/georgegluck)

I have been a mathematician, computer programmer and analyst as well as a manager for the past 42 years, specializing in creating workable, innovative solutions for large complex organizations such as the Social Security Administration, Medicare, and Department of Defense. Since our marriage in 1968, my wife, Phyllis, and I have been residents of Montgomery County, where our son and daughter attended elementary and junior high schools and were both graduated from Rockville High School, and all five of our grandchildren are presently MCPS students.

To a large degree, Montgomery County finds itself in an economic morass not of its own creation, being the victim of years of ill-conceived federal legislation and policy. I will keep as much money and jobs as possible in Montgomery County by nurturing local businesses, especially those owned by county residents.

Forum co-hosts are Chevy Chase View, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, East Bethesda Citizens Association, Citizens for a Better Bethesda, Edgemoor Citizens Association, Garrett Park, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF), Presidents Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations (PREZCO), Rollingwood Citizens Association, Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase, Somerset, Town of Chevy Chase, Town of Kensington, Village of Martin's Additions, Village of North Chevy Chase.

**Become informed and vote in the primaries on Sept. 14
and in the general election on Nov. 2.**
