



Cheryl Gannon <gannon1507@gmail.com>

MCCF letter re councilmember appointment process

Office of the Montgomery County Council <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov> Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 1:21 PM
Reply-To: Office of the Montgomery County Council <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
To: Cheryl Gannon <gannon1507@gmail.com>



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Dear Cheryl Gannon,

I have received the Montgomery County Civic Federation's October 21 letter about Montgomery County's appointment process for Council vacancies. I have also shared it with the Office of Legislative Information Services to document your objections to the process.

In accordance with the Montgomery County Charter and Montgomery County Code Section 16-17, a vacancy occurring on or after December 1 the year before a four-year election is filled with an appointee.

Under Montgomery County Charter Section 106, "When a vacancy has occurred, a majority

of the remaining members of the Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy within thirty days. An appointee to fill a vacancy, when succeeding a party member, shall be a member of the same political party as the person elected to such office at the time of election.”

Since Councilmember Gabe Albornoz plans to resign on December 1, 2025, the ten remaining councilmembers, elected by the voters of Montgomery County, are responsible for seeking his replacement to fulfill the duties of the office for less than one year. This limited and unique position requires expertise on budgetary, public policy, and legislative issues combined with an understanding of the needs across our community.

Full disclosure of all candidate applications would create a chilling effect in seeking top candidates to fill this temporary position. For example, individuals may face negative consequences with current employers if their applications are disclosed.

Additionally, Maryland law permits closed sessions for appointments to protect the privacy of those applying. This encourages detailed and candid deliberations about each applicant's qualifications and is especially important when the matters discussed could impact an applicant's employment or reputation.

After reviewing all the applicants, the final Council interview(s) and nomination and appointment proceedings will be open to the public, televised, streamed live, and available on the Council's website and Facebook and YouTube pages. The financial disclosure statement of the appointee will be filed with the Montgomery County Ethics Commission and available for public inspection.

All individuals who are qualified and willing to serve in this temporary Council position are encouraged to apply by the November 5, 2025, deadline. Thank you for your engagement on this important issue.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" and last name "Stewart" clearly legible.

Kate Stewart
Montgomery County Council President
