



Stop the Spend Ballot Petition

Limit Spending in Montgomery County to the Rate of Inflation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMITTEE SEEKS JUDICIAL REVIEW TO PLACE STOP THE SPEND REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Court filing identifies at least 325 rejected signatures the Committee contends should be counted, bringing the total above the 10,000-signature threshold

ROCKVILLE, MD — The Committee to Control Montgomery County Spending announced today that it has filed a Petition for Judicial Review in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County challenging the Montgomery County Board of Elections' determination that the Stop the Spend charter amendment petition fell short of the signatures required for the November 2026 general election ballot.

In their August 17th rejection letter, the Board of Elections validated 9,698 of 14,074 signatures submitted by the Committee. According to the court filing, the Committee's detailed review of the rejected signatures identified at least 325 signatures that were valid and should have been counted. Adding those signatures would bring the petition total to 10,023 - more than the 10,000 signatures required to qualify the proposed charter amendment for the ballot.

"This filing asks for a review of the signatures and the reasons they were rejected," the Committee said. "We believe the record shows that Montgomery County voters submitted more than enough valid signatures to place this question on the ballot."



12154 Darnestown Rd #244, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
By Authority – Committee to Control MoCo Spending –
Victoria Birkett, Treasurer



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The Committee respects the honesty, integrity and the role of the Board of Elections and the importance of a fair and accurate verification process.

The Committee appreciates the difficulty with reading handwritten signatures and hopes that future ballot collections could be done electronically.

Judicial review is the process provided by Maryland law when a petition sponsor believes a board determination is incorrect. "We are optimistic and look forward to a favorable outcome," the Committee said. "This referendum belongs to the thousands of Montgomery County residents who signed it. We look forward to a positive judicial review and to giving voters the opportunity to decide the question at the ballot box this November."

The proposed charter amendment would require the votes of all County Councilmembers to approve an operating budget that grows faster than the prior year's budget adjusted for inflation. It would not mandate cuts to any specific program. Instead, it would establish a clear fiscal guardrail while allowing the Council to exceed it through a unanimous vote.

The strong response to the petition reflects broad concern about property taxes, fees, affordability, and the continuing growth of County spending. The Committee remains committed to ensuring that residents have a direct voice in how quickly County government spending may grow.

END



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