

\$7,023 Per Capita Spending	58% More Than Fairfax	32% Budget Growth (6 yrs)	1.9% Pop. Growth (6 yrs)
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Montgomery County doesn't have a revenue problem. It has a results problem.

THE RESULTS GAP: MoCo vs. Fairfax — Same Region, Different Outcomes

Metric	Montgomery	Fairfax	What It Means
Per Capita Spending	\$7,023	\$4,435	<i>You pay \$2,588 more per person, per year</i>
Math Proficiency	35.7%	~78%	<i>2 in 3 MoCo kids not proficient in math</i>
ELA Proficiency	57%	~80%	<i>Nearly half of MoCo students behind</i>
Violent Crime Rate	~200/100K	~100/100K	<i>2x more likely to be a victim in MoCo</i>
Homicide Trend (2023)	+38%	-21%	<i>Opposite trajectories on the same beltway</i>
Police Officers Lost	194 (5 yrs)	Stable	<i>14% vacancy; 911 center peaked at 43% vacant</i>
MCPS Admin Overhead	45%	37%	<i>8-point gap = ~\$288M/yr in excess overhead</i>
Building Permits (Multi)	54	1,400+	<i>96% collapse after rent stabilization</i>
Income Growth Rank	28th/30	25th/30	<i>Near-bottom among 30 peer counties</i>

KEY FISCAL FINDINGS

- \$7.6B budget grew 32% in 6 yrs; population grew just 1.9%
- MCPS: \$3.6B (47% of budget). \$210M above state minimum with no performance benchmarks.
- Electric bus contract (\$168M+) declared illegal by MD State Board of Education. \$14.7M spent on emergency diesel replacements.
- Ride On fare-free: \$211M/yr, \$10.77/ride, 100% taxpayer-funded. No cost-benefit analysis published.
- 85% of short-term rentals unregistered — millions in uncollected 7% hotel tax.
- FY26 budget passed 11-0. Only ~300 residents testified on \$7.6 billion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Testify at FY2027 budget hearings — dates at MoCoGap.org/take-action
- Email your council member — prefilled message at MoCoGap.org
- Ask every candidate: Will you cap budget growth? Audit MCPS overhead? Fund the Inspector General?
- Share the data — social cards & talking points at MoCoGap.org
- Vote in the June 2026 primary — 3 council members running for County Executive all voted yes on every budget.

Every claim sourced to official records. No spin. No party politics. Just math.