

Montgomery County Council Legislative Branch Operations Assessment

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BACKGROUND

The Montgomery County Council (the Council) is the legislative branch of the Montgomery County (Maryland) government. The Council is made up of nine Councilmembers, all of whom are elected at the same time by voters, and serve four-year terms. Councilmembers are supported by a staff that includes a Central Staff supporting Councilmembers, the Office of Legislative Oversight, and the Office of Zoning & Administrative Hearings. The Council's responsibilities are outlined in the Charter of Montgomery County and Maryland law. It is responsible for approving the annual spending of Montgomery County each year. The Council is also responsible for:

- approving all land use plans,
- zoning changes,
- exercising oversight of County Programs,
- approving the County 10-year Solid Waste and Water Supply and Sewerage System Plan,
- serving as the Board of Health for the County,
- enacting County laws and amendments to the County Code,
- confirming major appointments made by the County Executive,
- acting on reorganization plans for County government departments, and
- directing and reviewing the annual independent audit of County government operations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At the request of the Council, the Academy is conducting a three-month organizational assessment of the Legislative Branch of the County Government with the goal of ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in the County's operations. The Academy's work will be based on documentary research and interviews with Councilmembers and Legislative Branch officials and staff. The Academy team will review foundational documents and administrative guidance; budgetary and strategic planning documents; and past internal and external assessments of relevant Legislative Branch offices' operations and performance.

The organizational assessment is directed by a three-member Expert Advisory Group (EAG) of Academy Fellows and conducted by an expert professional staff. The EAG and staff will provide Councilmembers with actionable recommendations that support state-of-the-art organizational efficiency.

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP

Scott Fosler – Former Mayor of Chevy Chase and Senior Lecturer, Center for Public Policy and Private Enterprise, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland. Former Visiting Professor and Roger C. Lipitz Senior Fellow, Center for Public Policy and Private Enterprise, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland. Former President, National Academy of Public Administration; Vice President and Director of Government Studies, Committee for Economic Development; Member and President, Montgomery County (Maryland) Council; President, Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments; Senior Fellow, Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies; Assistant to Executive Director, National Commission on Productivity; Senior Staff, Institute of Public Administration.

Karl Nollenberger – Associate Professor, Public Administration Department, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; Vice President, GovHR USA. Former Vice President, Voorhees Associates; Academic Director, Masters of Public Administration Program, Illinois Institute of Technology. Former Vice President, The PAR Group; County Administrator, Lake County, Illinois; Chief Administrative Officer, City of Duluth, Minnesota; County Administrator, County of St. Louis, Minnesota; Senior Manager, Arthur Young & Company; City Manager, City of Beaumont, Texas; City Manager, City of Richfield, Minnesota.

Bel Leong-Hong – President and Chief Executive Officer, Knowledge Advantage Inc. Former positions with U.S. Department of Defense: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense for Plans and Resources; Director, Corporate Information Management Initiative; Director, Policy & Standards; Senior Staff Analyst, Information Resource Management. Former Principal Deputy Director and Chief Information Officer, Defense Security Service. Positions with Defense Information Systems Agency: Deputy Commander, Joint Interoperability and Engineering Organization; Director, Center for Information Management; Strategies Team Chief, Agency Transition Team; Director, Information Engineering. Computer Scientist, National Bureau of Standards (now National Institute of Standards and Technology).

PROJECT STAFF

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