



THE MONITOR

2026 Spring Issue

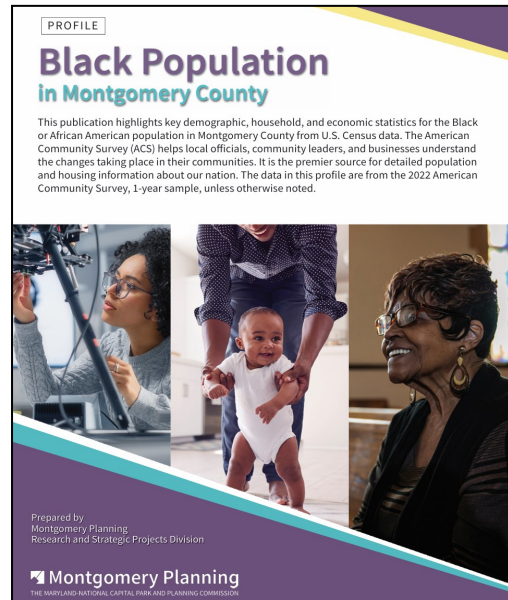
Volume 6 Issue 1

State of the Black Population in Montgomery County Profile of the Black Population in Montgomery County

The following is an excerpt from the “Black Population in Montgomery County” profile released by Montgomery Planning. The full report can be found on [MontgomeryPlanning.org](https://montgomeryplanning.org).

An analysis of the most recent data (2022) from the American Community Survey (ACS) shows that Montgomery’s **194,776 Black residents are 19% of the county’s population** and have grown at a far faster rate (804% versus 101%) than the overall population since 1970. Many Black residents have found success in the county – the most common **income category for Black residents was \$100,000 to \$150,000** and **47% of Black residents have at least a Bachelor’s degree**, which exceeds the US population’s 36% in 2022. Also notable is that the Black population skews slightly younger than the county – **47% of the population is younger than 35** compared to 42% overall and 14% of the Black population is between 25 and 34 years old compared to 12% overall.

This significant segment of the population still faces **substantial challenges**, however. There are major discrepancies between the Black population and the County population overall in the categories of household income, educational attainment, homeownership, and the type of building residents live in. The **median household income was only \$86,954 compared to a \$118,323 median for the county** overall. Educational



attainment is lower with only 47% having at least a bachelor’s degree, compared to 61% for the county overall. The lower household incomes and educational attainment translate into **lower rates of homeownership** for Black households (46% versus 66% overall). There is also a significant difference in the types of housing units occupied by Black residents – **only 24% of Black households live in single family detached units** compared to 47% of the county overall. These data emphasize the importance of public policies to provide opportunities for education, professional



Mark your calendar! National Convention in Chicago July 18 - 22, 2026

Plans for the 117th National Convention are underway. The annual event celebrates our community’s collective power. Information on registration, hotels, travel and the schedule can be found at [NAACP.org/convention](https://naacp.org/convention).

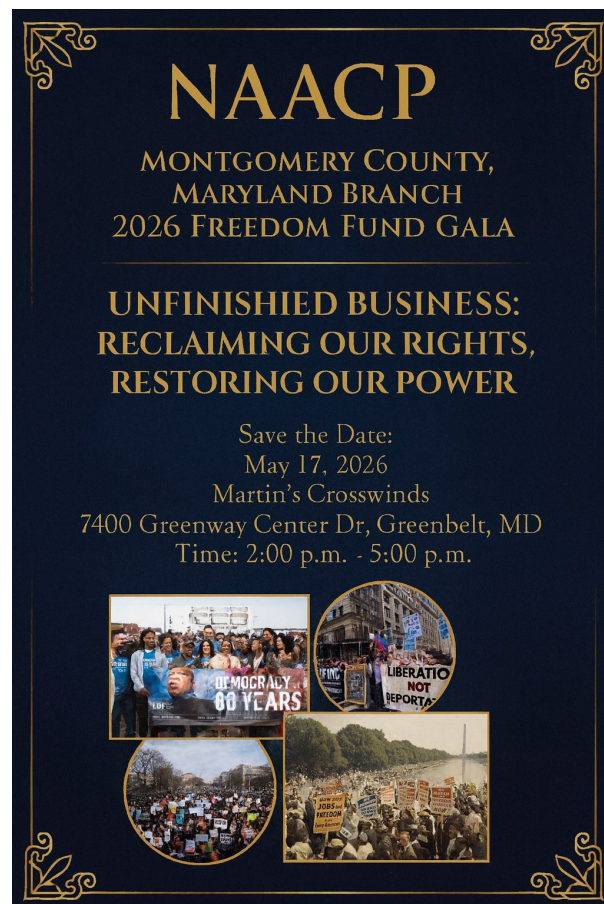
***The NAACP Annual Freedom
Fund Gala***

May 17, 2026

The Montgomery County, Maryland Branch of the NAACP, cordially invites all to attend our 51st Annual Freedom Fund Gala, presented under the powerful theme “Unfinished Business: Reclaiming Our Rights, Restoring Our Power.” The gala will be held on May 17, 2026 at Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 at 2:00p.m. The keynote speaker will be Congresswoman Sidney Kamlager-Dove who represents California’s 7th Congressional District.

For more than a century, the NAACP has stood at the forefront of the struggle for civil rights, justice, and equality, yet our work remains unfinished. This year’s theme challenges us to confront the inequities that persist while honoring those who paved the way and elevate the leaders who are carrying the mission forward. Your presence and support at our annual fundraiser makes it possible for the NAACP to sustain its advocacy efforts, youth initiatives, and community programs that defend civil rights and expand opportunities for our community.


Purchase tickets, reserve a table, or become a sponsor online via Eventbrite: [The 51st NAACP Montgomery County, Maryland Freedom Fund Gala Tickets](#),



NAACP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND BRANCH
2026 FREEDOM FUND GALA

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
RECLAIMING OUR RIGHTS,
RESTORING OUR POWER**

Save the Date:
May 17, 2026
Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Dr, Greenbelt, MD
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Education Update

NAACP Montgomery County Parents' Council Initiatives

The Montgomery County Parents' Council, led by Chairperson Byron Johns and supported by the dedicated School Representatives, has been busy promoting educational initiatives and planning field trips for schools and students throughout the county.

Math Momentum Program Using IXL Math Learning Tools

The Parents' Council, working with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), has been actively working to inform parents about the IXL Math platform. IXL Math is a comprehensive, adaptive, and interactive tool for students to practice and master math skills at their own pace, with features designed to motivate learners and provide parents and teachers with actionable insights. IXL offers a wealth of instructional resources that help keep students engaged in math. The Council is spreading the word to parents about the benefits of IXL Math, how to access it, and how to effectively use it. The Council has approximately 1700 families participating at 150+ MCPS schools.

MCPS initially adopted IXL Math in 2023 to support students in grades 6-8. Educators quickly recognized IXL's strengths, including its adaptability to individual learning needs, the power to help teachers effectively differentiate instruction and the robust tools for monitoring progress. IXL was also chosen because its skills align perfectly to Maryland's state standards. After seeing strong results, MCPS expanded IXL's use to high school math courses, including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. IXL now plays a pivotal role in enhancing math education for MCPS students.

Educational Museum Trips

The Parents' Council continues to work with schools across the county to coordinate and finance trips to the local museums including the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, and the Holocaust Memorial Museum. There are about 20 trips scheduled between March and June. Overall trips have been provided for over 11,000 MCPS students.



NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Updates

ACT-SO Poetry Read-In and Visual Arts Showcase

Sunday, April 12, 2026
Blackrock Center for the Arts
12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown MD

ACT-SO Competition Day

Sunday, April 19, 2026
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Montgomery College, Rockville Campus
Theatre Arts Building

ACT-SO Awards Ceremony

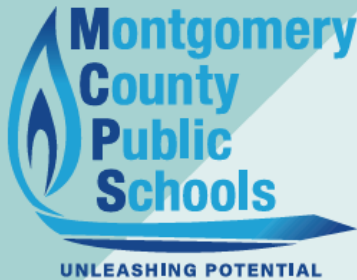
Sunday, April 26, 2026
Location and time TBD

The ACT-SO Competition will include the following categories:

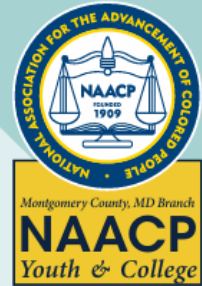
- Poetry Written, Original Essay, Short Story, Music Composition, Drawing Painting, Dramatics, Oratory, Vocals, Instrumentals, Filmmaking, and Spoken Word. Adult and student volunteers are needed to support the ACT-SO Competition Day. Student registrations are still being accepted. Please encourage high school students to participate.

Volunteers will be tasked with facilitating the competition categories, tabulating results, and supporting other activities throughout the day. Please contact Pat Price and Laura Dennis at actsomc@gmail.com.

Save the date!



Montgomery County Public Schools
Partnering with
Montgomery County Branch of NAACP
Announces the



NAACP YOUTH SUMMIT

"Cultivating Leaders of Tomorrow"

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Richard Montgomery High School
250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850



LUNCH PROVIDED

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

**FREE TO ALL GRADE 6 - 12
MCPS STUDENTS**

Student attendees will be able to participate in:

- Leadership development workshops
- A panel discussion
- A special reflection opportunity/advocacy campaign

Students earn four (4) SSL hours for participation
in the workshops and the advocacy campaign.

PLEASE RSVP HERE if you are interested and
able to attend. This RSVP allows the event
coordinators to be best prepared for the event
and provisioned for all who wish to attend.



For questions or additional information, please contact:

naacpmont7@aol.com or 1-888-649-5991



The Maryland State Administrator of Elections Addresses Mis/Disinformation of the “Nationalization of Elections”

The following was issued by the State Administrator of the Maryland State Board of Elections, Jared DiMarinis.

Annapolis, MD (February 6, 2026) — Recent events and high-profile press statements have suggested the possibility of nationalizing election administration in an attempt to cast doubts on election security maintained by the States. Before any misinformation or disinformation takes hold from these statements, the State Administrator of Elections, Jared DeMarinis, issued the following statement to provide corrective information:

The United States Constitution is clear: the authority to administer elections predominately resides with the States. The States administer and conduct elections each according to their laws and regulations, subject to limited Congressional authority. The President of the United States has no constitutional or statutory authority to nationalize Maryland’s elections and electoral processes.

As State Administrator of the Maryland State Board of Elections, I want to assure voters that we are dedicated to ensuring that all elections are run in a manner that is safe, secure, transparent and accessible for all eligible voters. We are guided by the principle enshrined in Maryland’s Declaration of Rights- “the right of the People to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; . . . and every citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.”

Additionally, statements on the presence of federal enforcement agents in and around polling locations may cause apprehension or anxiety for certain communities. This office is committed to protecting voters from undue harassment or intimidation regarding when they voted, how they voted, and who they voted for. Elections are the foundation of our democracy, and, in 2026, it is how we use our voice to determine the future of our State. All eligible voters have a Constitutional right to use their voice and their vote. Do not be deterred from voting due to a perceived threat against a community. Mail-in voting is a viable option and an alternative to in-person voting. Mail-in voting is safe, secure, convenient and legal. Don’t let the noise disenfranchise or silence your voice. This right was hard fought for over the course of our country’s history, and we do not take protecting that right lightly.

*Again, Marylanders should feel confident in our election administration. Always verify the information you hear or see, whether on social media, from a friend, or any other source, with the trusted source of electoral information, the Maryland State Board of Elections. The Maryland State Board of Elections ensures Marylanders can exercise their constitutional right in a **verified**, **open**, **transparent** and **empowering** manner that is safe and secure.*

For more information visit www.elections.maryland.gov .



NAACP Montgomery County Maryland
 P.O. Box 2165, Rockville, MD 20847-2165
 naacpmont7@aol.com

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Street Address: _____ County: _____
 City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____ Telephone: _____
 Branch Affiliation: #7022 Current Membership Number: _____
 (if renewal)
 Solicitor/Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Please mail this form to the address above along with your check or money order made payable to:
Montgomery County NAACP

Gifts and contributions to this branch are not deductible as charitable contributions. However, a portion of your dues is remitted to the National organization and these amounts are tax deductible.

Regular Annual Memberships:

- _____ Regular adult (age 21 and over) - \$30
- _____ Youth (age 20 and under) - \$10
- _____ Annual Corporate - \$5,000

Lifetime Memberships:

- _____ Junior Life (age 12 and under) - \$100
 Payable in installments of \$25 or more) __/__/__ Birthdate
- _____ Bronze Life (ages 14-20) - \$400
 Payable in installments of \$50 or more) __/__/__ Birthdate
- _____ Silver Life - \$750
 Payable in installments of \$75 or more
- _____ Gold Life - \$1,500
 Payable in installments of \$150 or more
- _____ Diamond Life - \$2,500
 Payable in installments of \$250 or more

Your support is essential to ensure that the efforts of the NAACP are visible and effective in protecting the civil rights of all citizens.
 Remember, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

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Montgomery County Maryland NAACP Receipt

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Branch: Montgomery County Maryland Branch Number: #7022
 Received by: _____ Amount: \$ _____
 Check Number: _____

Thank You for Your Support!

MC/NAACP
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 http://www.naacp-mc.org
 1-888-649-5991