

Douglas M. Duncan is currently serving his third term as County Executive of Montgomery County, Maryland's largest jurisdiction. Since his election in 1994, Duncan has provided hands-on leadership to improve educational excellence, address the County's severe traffic congestion problems and position Montgomery as an international biotechnology leader. The Washington Post -- which has called Duncan the "Mayor of Montgomery" -- describes his governing style as "county leadership that knows when to quit mulling and start moving."

Displaying strong fiscal management, Duncan has reduced the average household property tax burden by eight percent, while increasing funding for public schools, transportation, public safety, libraries, and other essential services. Understanding the importance of leveraging resources, the Executive -- affectionately referred to by members of the Maryland legislature as 'Delegate Duncan' -- aggressively lobbied to increase state aid 122 percent since 1995.

Duncan is working tirelessly to solve the single greatest threat to Montgomery County's quality of life -- traffic congestion. He budgeted more than \$1 billion for roads, rail, and new bus lines, and worked to change the "not in my backyard" attitude about new, desperately needed transportation projects. His personal involvement in pedestrian safety has sparked new regional efforts to reduce deaths and injuries.

A top priority remains quality education, and Duncan upped per-student spending every year of his administration, increasing investment by 60 percent for all-day kindergarten programs, decreased class sizes, more teachers, and increased professional development.

Under Duncan's ambitious anti-poverty program "Rewarding Work," Montgomery became the first County in the nation to implement a local Earned Income Tax Credit, targeting tax relief to working poor families. He improved access to health care for the needy, expanded transit subsidies, provided job training, and doubled annual spending on affordable housing to \$15 million.

Duncan strengthened the economy by spearheading business recruitment and redevelopment, establishing Montgomery as the state's job growth leader with the lowest unemployment rate. He solidified the County as a world biotechnology leader, which led Time Magazine to dub Montgomery "DNA Alley."

As part of an aggressive smart-growth program, Duncan has made revitalization of declining central business districts a priority, starting with downtown Silver Spring. Through a \$560 million public-private partnership Silver Spring is being transformed with a 20-acre mixed use project, including restoration of the historic Silver Theatre, for the American Film Institute, and construction of Discovery Communications' world headquarters.

Under his leadership, Montgomery became one of the first jurisdictions to require local gun dealers to provide child safety locks for handguns sold or traded. Duncan has helped protect the safety of citizens by hiring more police and reducing violent crime 21 percent from 1995 to 2001.

Duncan has dramatically increased funding for recreation and cultural activities, including a new concert hall and arts education center, and funding for cultural arts activities. His leadership in protecting the environment has led to significant improvements. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Montgomery "leads the nation in saving farmland from development."

Duncan, with his unique sense of urgency, led Montgomery through its transformation from a suburban bedroom community into an international urban center recognized for visionary land planning, a premier high technology industry and vast green space and parks. Getting the job done in local government is never easy, but getting the job done is Duncan's passion.