CITY OF ROCKVILLE YOUTH COMMISSION

Annual Report
2024-2025

OVERVIEW

The Rockville Youth Commission promotes leadership and advocacy for Rockville's youth. We set goals and develop plans to make the City more welcoming and supportive for our age group. We prioritize inclusivity, communication, and representation, striving to be a voice for our peers. We work with City officials and connect with youth in our community. In this, the second year of our commission, we have laid the foundation for the commission's future work.

WHAT WE PROMOTE

- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Representation

PROJECTS

The Youth Commission developed a Youth Voice in Government Survey for students from 6th to 12th grade. The survey was created to collect input to help shape program and policy ideas that the commission presents to the Mayor and Council. The survey aims to collect data from youth in Rockville and across Montgomery County to better understand what they would like to see from their city government and the issues they are facing today.

In the spring of 2025 the Youth Commission was proud to share their survey to the public, collecting over 30 responses in the first month. We formed connections with Montgomery County delegates, Pamela Queen and Bernice Mireku who agreed to share our survey with youth around Montgomery County.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

March 5, 2025	***Toured the King Farm Farmstead and talked to elected officials about our stance on changes to be made to the property***
April 8, 2025	***Attended Community Visioning Open House for the King farm Farmstead***
May 24, 2025	***Attended Hometown Holidays and passed out survey flyers***
June 3, 2025	***Attended a Phase 2 meeting for King Farm Farmstead where we proposed the idea of a youth center***
August 2, 2025	***Attended the opening of The Montgomery County Mobile Health Clinic and connected with Montgomery County Delegates, Superintendents, and other stakeholders***

COLLABORATIONS

- The Vote16 movement is a student-led initiative to lower the voting age to 16 for local elections. Their stance is that if young people are trusted to work jobs, pay taxes, drive, and lead in our schools and communities, then they should also have a say in the decisions that affect their daily lives. The Youth Commission spoke in support of this initiative at the Mayor and Council meeting on June 16, 2025, and plans to continue collaboration with groups on this and future initiatives regarding youth participation in local elections.

- Members of the Youth Commission participated in the grant review process with the City's Community Services division. Members reviewed grant requests from various nonprofits and participated in meetings with City staff and other reviewers to make recommendations.

ADVOCACY

- June 7, 2025, the City of Rockville held a “Local Elections and Law” listening session about the future of local election law concerning voting age, where the youth commission sat alongside Vote16 directors.
- June 9, 2025, the Youth Commission submitted written testimony to the Mayor and Council supporting the Vote16 Movement.
- June 16, 2025, Youth Commission Interim Chair, Leila McCarthy, spoke in support of lowering the voting age in local elections during the Community Forum at the Mayor and Council meeting.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

School engagement is important to the Youth Commission because young people spend the majority of their time in school. Frequently, school is the place where students experience many of the challenges that affect them most. By connecting with schools, the Youth Commission can ensure that it is representing the voices, needs and ideas of a diverse group of students.

The Youth Commission has established connections with the Student Government Associations (SGAs) at Richard Montgomery, Wootton and Bullis High Schools, along with St. Elizabeth Catholic School and Julius West Middle School. Through connections with the SGAs we have been able to interact with students on issues that they face on a daily basis.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

Using feedback from our survey, the Youth Commission is outlining key areas to address in our future initiatives

Civic Engagement and Advocacy

We aim to promote the creation of more activities for youth, advocate to make Rockville's Town Center more youth-friendly and encourage additional youth resources — including the development of a youth center. We also want to make sure student voices are heard in MCPS redistricting decisions, share our survey findings with the Mayor and Council and continue supporting the Vote16 movement.

Social Engagement

We hope to be granted the opportunity to run social media pages. Social media is an effective way to share information, promote events, and connect with the youth. It would allow the commission to reach more young people, highlight the commission's work and encourage youth involvement. It would also provide a platform for youth voices to be heard and help the commission stay visible and engaged with our peers.

Health & Well-Being

We plan to explore ways to create programs that address important issues like mental health, wellness, civil rights, bullying, and drug abuse — all of which were highlighted in the survey results.

Community

We plan to collaborate with other commissions and community groups to bring youth perspectives to the table and create more opportunities for young people to connect, share experiences, and work together on common challenges.

COMMISSIONERS

Name	Term Expiration
Leila McCarthy, Interim Chair	October 1, 2025
Becca Fulton, Chair	July 1, 2025
Sam Abatemam	October 1, 2025
Alexander Makriyiannis	October 1, 2025
Jack Maravilla	October 1, 2025
Daniela Naaman	October 1, 2025
Alice Xiao	October 1, 2025
Elijah Noda	November 1, 2025

Youth Commission Staff Liaisons: Jordan Perry & Melinda Norton
Youth Commission Councilmember Liaison: Marissa Valeri