

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Montgomery County History Center		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Kagan	Vogel	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of a Montgomery County History Center		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Matt Logan		301-512-7027
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Montgomery History, founded as the Montgomery County Historical Society, has been serving the county and the region through its research library, exhibits, adult programs, educational activities for students, publications, Speakers Bureau, and history-themed conferences since 1944. Montgomery History's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history of all Montgomery County residents and communities. As the only organization addressing the entire scope of county history, we serve a distinctive role as a cultural repository and source of dependable information. Our goal is to help create a shared sense of place among residents old and new and to build a safe and welcoming community.</p>		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

To rectify an issue that has plagued us since the 1980s, we are developing a new home for our Sween Library; flex space for public programming (exhibits, hands-on workshops, lectures, events, etc.); a studio for creating digital content; and its administrative offices. Our intent is to bring all these activities under one roof as the Montgomery History Center. In 2025 we purchased the (c.1930) Farmers Banking and Trust building at 4 Courthouse Square in the Rockville Courthouse Historic District to fill these needs. This iconic building is the only commercial Art Deco building in Rockville that survived urban renewal. We will soon begin interior modifications--most notably the installation of an elevator to serve all four floors, a sprinkler system throughout, and significant HVAC upgrades--to make it accessible to the public and to meet professional standards for the storage and care of the invaluable materials in our library and archives.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	\$1,750,000
Design	\$438,000
Construction	\$3,608,040
Equipment	\$448,910
Total	\$6,244,950

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

State of Maryland, LBI (FY22)	\$700,000
State of Maryland, LBI (FY23)	\$500,000
State of Maryland, LBI (FY25)	\$270,000
State of Maryland, LBI (FY26--this request)	\$500,000
Mont. County Cost Sharing Capital Grant (FY24)	\$420,000
Mont. County Cost Sharing Capital Grant (FY26-7)	\$500,000
Proceeds from sale of real property	\$1,200,000
Private donations	\$2,000,000
Arts & Humanities Advancement Grant (awarded)	\$53,620
MHT Capital Grant (to be submitted)	\$50,000
MHAA Capital Grant (to be submitted)	\$100,000
Total	\$6,293,620

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
Complete	Complete	3/16/2026	9/1/2026
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
	125 (only library now open to	3,000 on-site and 18,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
FY22	\$700,000	Montgomery History Center	
FY23	\$250,000	Montgomery History Center	
FY23	\$250,000	Montgomery History Center	
FY25	\$270,000	Montgomery History Center	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
The Montgomery County Historical Society, Inc. 111 W. Montgomery Ave. Rockville, MD 20850		4 Courthouse Square Rockville, MD 20850	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	17 - Montgomery County		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[]	[]	[X]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Matthew Logan	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-512-7027		
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
7	9-10	725000.00	920000.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	10,673 sf (including basement)		
Space to be Renovated GSF	10,673 sf		
New GSF			

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

1930

28. Comments

The new Montgomery History Center at 4 Courthouse Square will bring the historic Farmers Banking and Trust building back to life, helping to revitalize a key corridor in downtown Rockville. The building will provide a home for all our functions under one roof (except storage of our artifacts which will be across the street in the County-owned Grey Courthouse). The former bank lobby, with 25-foot ceilings, will provide open flex space for educational programs, hands-on workshops, symposia, exhibits, community events, and other public activities. An oral history recording studio, accessible restrooms, and a catering kitchen will also be installed on the main floor. The second floor will be dedicated to professional-grade archival storage. The third level will house the Sween Library and Special Collections, including an expansive reading room, and our administrative offices. A sprinkler system will be installed to serve the entire structure.

The studio to produce digital content will occupy one of the four bank vaults still in the building. It is critically important to our growing audience, especially younger people who engage with our recorded presentations, podcasts, and oral history interviews. Utilization of new technologies allows us to reach larger, more diverse audiences (in terms of age, race, geography, physical abilities, etc.) who may otherwise face barriers to access. Two examples demonstrate the power of these technologies. Our weekly History Conversations program, offered for free via Zoom, has drawn an audience from 48 states and seven foreign countries. And a recent Zoom program about the resilience of the American Constitution, featuring Rep. Jamie Raskin, drew an audience of 650 households and the video was viewed another 4,000 times online. Our plans for FY26 and beyond are dependent upon having a home for creating professional quality digital media.

Significantly, the new space will allow us to deepen our commitment to using historical inquiry, education, and engagement to reach new audiences, and contribute to public discussions about issues of contemporary relevance. The timing is particularly auspicious in light of the nation's and the County's upcoming 250th anniversaries. The opening of the History Center is anticipated to coincide with the County's anniversary on September 6, 2026, which falls on Labor Day weekend. Events and exhibitions representing the theme of An Unfinished Revolution will be developed in partnership with organizations, schools, and local government agencies. We anticipate these events will draw people to Rockville to deepen their understanding of how this country, and our county, have developed over the last 25 decades.

In short, the Montgomery History Center will be a one-of-a-kind facility serving residents of the county and beyond, helping them better understand their shared past in order to forge a better tomorrow for future generations. Above all, it will make history accessible to all, which in turn helps us to build safer and more welcoming communities for ourselves and our neighbors.