



Title: "Let's become a Leader Again"

<p>When I was County Executive, we turned downtown Silver Spring...into this.</p>	<p>Gazette, 5/28/2014</p> <p>Former county executive Douglas Duncan's time in office, 1994 through 2006, was a remarkable era, with a host of accomplishments including the Silver Spring revitalization, the construction of Strathmore and the expansion of the life sciences along Interstate 270. He has built his campaign around rekindling the kind of bold action that marked those years.</p> <p>Washington Post, 5/2/2014</p> <p>He had important and enduring successes, including the impressive redevelopment of Silver Spring — once dilapidated and dangerous, now dynamic — and the building of the music center at Strathmore.</p>																																				
<p>But today, the Silver Spring Transit Center is 4 years late and \$30 million over budget, with no plan to get it open</p>	<p>"Construction of Silver Spring Transit Center delayed but plodding ahead," Jason Tomassini, Gazette, 10/21/2009</p> <p>"Completion of the \$91-million transit center, located at Colesville Road and Wayne Avenue, was initially expected for the end of 2010."</p> <p>"Silver Spring Transit Center opening could slip into 2015," Dick Uliano, WTOP, 4/22/2014</p> <p>Cost estimates for the facility have grown from \$26 million to \$120 million</p>																																				
<p>And it's more than the transit center.</p> <p>Montgomery County is leading Maryland in job losses</p>	<p>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Employment: Montgomery County</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Montgomery County</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>April 2013:</td> <td>508,201</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 2014:</td> <td>505,788</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>-2,413</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>County</th> <th>Apr-13</th> <th>Apr-14</th> <th># Diff.</th> <th>% Diff.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Montgomery</td> <td>508201</td> <td>505788</td> <td>-2413</td> <td>-0.48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Washington</td> <td>65200</td> <td>64107</td> <td>-1093</td> <td>-1.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wicomico</td> <td>48050</td> <td>47362</td> <td>-688</td> <td>-1.45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frederick</td> <td>121497</td> <td>120920</td> <td>-577</td> <td>-0.48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcester</td> <td>23812</td> <td>23637</td> <td>-175</td> <td>-0.74%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	April 2013:	508,201	April 2014:	505,788	Total:	-2,413	County	Apr-13	Apr-14	# Diff.	% Diff.	Montgomery	508201	505788	-2413	-0.48%	Washington	65200	64107	-1093	-1.70%	Wicomico	48050	47362	-688	-1.45%	Frederick	121497	120920	-577	-0.48%	Worcester	23812	23637	-175	-0.74%
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Our schools are too crowded	<p>"Montgomery's rising student enrollment creates space concerns," Bui, Washington Post, 5/26/2013</p> <p>Rising enrollment has created challenges for the school system, including a need for new schools, modernizing sagging buildings and expanding campuses to accommodate students. But county school officials say there isn't enough money to keep up with the thousands of students expected to pour into the system over the next decade, and they are having to make difficult choices.</p> <p>WAMU, 10/28/2014</p> <p>Highland's predicament is common in county schools, says superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr, who unveiled the construction plan at the school this afternoon. Enrollment is expected to increase by roughly 2,000 students countywide each year for the next six years.</p>																																																																																															

	<p>"These capacity projects will certainly address some of our need, but not all of it," Starr says. "We have 15 clusters that are above 105-percent capacity."...</p> <p>To that end, this five-year plan calls for \$1.55 billion in funds at a time when Starr says the county system needs more than \$2 billion to complete necessary construction.</p>
<p>and the achievement gap is growing</p>	<p><u>"Achievement gaps between Montgomery's high-poverty, low-poverty high schools grow," Turque, Washington Post, 4/8/2014</u></p> <p>Montgomery County's efforts to close the gap in achievement between its high-poverty and low-poverty high schools have not worked, with widening disparities on many measures of student success, according to a county report released Tuesday.</p> <p>The 59-page study found that the schools are increasingly divided by income, race and ethnicity, with African American, Latino and low-income students more isolated than they were three years ago.</p>
<p>I know we can do better because we've done it before.</p>	