

Gaithersburg Governance – An Overview

The City of Gaithersburg is administered by a Mayor/City Council – City Manager style of government, with elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd numbered years.

The Mayor, who holds a non-voting position, is elected to a four-year term and presides over the City Council. The City Council consists of five members elected at-large, each serving staggered four-year terms. Council Members elect a Vice President each year and each Council Member has a vote. The day-to-day operations are run by the City Manager, who is appointed by the City Council

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, Gaithersburg voters will cast their ballots for three at-large members of the City Council. The next election for Mayor and two City Council members will be Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

The Mayor and City Council meet in formal session the first and third Monday of each month, when they discuss issues and approve legislation. On most of the off Mondays

there are public Work Sessions where the Mayor and City Council discuss relevant City business.

Agendas and minutes are available online at gaithersburgmd.gov. Council meetings and work sessions are televised live on Comcast and RCN Channels 13 and Verizon FiOS Channel 25 within the City limits, on YouTube @GburgMD, and are also available for viewing live on the website. Archived meetings may also be viewed via the website and on YouTube.

October 26 & 27
Early voting at City Hall
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 30
Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail
(see page 2 for details)

November 5
ELECTION DAY
Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

VOTE
NOVEMBER 5
2019

City Council Candidates



Neil H. Harris



Ryan Spiegel



Robert T. Wu

Read their Statements Inside

Not Yet a Registered Voter in Montgomery County?

This Year We are Offering Same-Day Voter Registration

If you are registered to vote in Montgomery County, you are automatically registered to vote in City of Gaithersburg elections.

If you are an eligible voter but NOT yet registered in Montgomery County, you can register by contacting the Montgomery County Board of Elections prior to the Election or you can register at the polls at Early Voting or on Election Day.

Show an approved form of identification and you'll be able to cast a provisional ballot. Upon verification

of your eligibility to vote, your provisional ballot will then be counted.

An approved form of ID is required to show proof of residency in the City of Gaithersburg. It can be a Maryland Driver's License or Maryland ID card, OR one of the following with your name and current address, dated after July 30, 2019:

- Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Paycheck
- Government Check or other Government Document

For information on voter eligibility contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE (8683) or visit montgomerycountymd.gov.

Please look inside for Spanish

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Por favor mire adentro para la versión en español

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POLLS OPEN
7 AM TO 8 PM
NOVEMBER 5

Early Voting & Absentee Ballots Available



Absentee Ballots Now Available

Any registered voter within the City limits is entitled to cast an absentee ballot. Applications are now available at City Hall during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may also request an absentee ballot by calling Elections Clerk Lauren Klingler at 301-258-6310 or you may download an application online at gaithersburgmd.gov.

Completed applications can then be mailed or dropped off at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877 or submitted via e-mail to cityelections@gaithersburgmd.gov. Your application must contain your signature, printed name, current legal residential address within the City, any mailing address different from your residential address and, if applicable, your authorized agent.

After approval of the application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you. Residents who are approved after October 30 must pick up their absentee ballot at City Hall during normal business hours. Absentee ballots may be returned to City Hall in person up to and including the time of closing of the polls on Election Day. All mailed absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on November 7, 2019.

For complete election information please contact Elections Clerk Lauren Klingler at 301-258-6310 or email cityelections@gaithersburgmd.gov.

Write-in Candidates

The City of Gaithersburg allows write-in candidates for Mayor and City Council.

To be eligible, a candidate must file a certificate of candidacy with the Board of Supervisors of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019, or within three days of the candidate collecting or expending a cumulative amount of \$250 in support of his or her candidacy.

Once the BOSE has approved the certificate, write-in votes for that candidate will be accepted. All write-in candidates must comply with campaign rules and regulations.

For more information on write-in candidacy please contact Elections Clerk Lauren Klingler at 301-258-6310 or email cityelections@gaithersburgmd.gov.

Early Voting at City Hall

If you won't be around on Election Day, or if it is simply more convenient, you have options other than going to the polls on November 5. This year Gaithersburg is holding two early voting days. Regardless of your precinct, you are invited to cast your ballot at City Hall before Election Day. City Hall is located at 31 South Summit Avenue near the Train Station in Olde Towne Gaithersburg.

Vote early on:

Saturday, October 26 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Sunday, October 27 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

If you will be out of town or are otherwise unable to vote on either of these days or on Election Day, please see the article above for details about requesting an absentee ballot.

Candidate Profiles Vote for Three City Council Members

Certified candidates were invited to submit a 250-word statement for publication in this Voters Guide. Their statements appear unedited in the order the candidates are listed on the ballot. Additional information about the candidates is available online.

Videotaped statements air periodically on Gaithersburg TV, Comcast and RCN Channels 13 and Verizon FiOS Channel 25 in the City limits, or may be viewed at any time online at gaithersburgmd.gov and YouTube @GburgMD.



Neil H. Harris Candidate for City Council

I am seeking reelection because I want to extend my commitment to quality of life, fiscal discipline, good schools, and smart growth.

I have lived in Gaithersburg for more than three decades. I love this community and it has been my great honor to serve it first as an home owners association leader and now as an elected member of the City Council. My understanding of Gaithersburg and our needs has deepened since I joined the council, and during my tenure I have sought to strengthen our reputation as the best managed municipality in Maryland bringing my experience and judgement as a businessman to the work of the council.

My Commitments:

Fiscal Responsibility: I championed a stronger investment strategy for the city, which produced a \$2 million annual increase in revenue from interest income, and have advocated for low taxes and careful spending.

Smart Infrastructure Growth: I have supported better approaches to development in a number of high-profile projects, including the Johnson tract and the Kentlands Square renovation, and strongly advocated for the pedestrian bridge funded by Astra Zeneca.

Safe and Modern Schools: I have consistently supported expanded school capacity, including the construction of a new elementary school for Gaithersburg, added capacity for Quince Orchard, and a new high school at Crown Farm.

Thriving Transportation Networks: I have been a prominent advocate for better long-range transportation planning in our community, seeking to reduce congestion, promoting shared use paths and bicycle route connectivity, and significant CCT and Route 28 improvements.

Age: 63

Residency in Gaithersburg:
30 years

Education: Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, MBA; University of Maryland University College – BS in Business & Management; Northeast High School, Philadelphia, Pa.

Occupation: Consultant

Experience in Municipal, County, State or Federal Government:

Gaithersburg City Council 2014 to present; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board 2014 to present

Organizations, Committees, Clubs:

Kentlands Citizens Assembly (HOA) Chairman, 2012-14, President 2006-08.

Special Recognition or Awards:

Fellow of the Academy of Excellence in Local Government

Campaign Website:

<http://voteformeil.com/>

Gaithersburg Board of Supervisors of Elections

Established in 1977, the Board of Supervisors of Elections oversees the verification of candidates for elected office. The Board also officiates over all regular and special City elections. The volunteer members are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council and serve staggered four-year terms.

Joan More, Chair
 Ty Hardaway
 Thomas Marchessault
 William Snyder
 William Albright
 Joyce Aubrey (alternate)

Election Results

As soon as they have been tabulated, the unofficial results of the November 5, 2019 election will be read live by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections in the City Hall Gallery. We anticipate that this will take place at approximately 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5. The unofficial results will also be posted on the City's website at gaithersburgmd.gov, on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter @GburgMD, and on GTV, the City's cable channel, Comcast and RCN 13 and Verizon FiOS 25, viewable within the City limits.

The results are not official until certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 12. Elected candidates are scheduled to be sworn in at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019 at City Hall.



Ryan Spiegel

Candidate for City Council

Exciting things are happening all around Gaithersburg. We are not without big challenges, but Councilmember Ryan Spiegel has been a key steward of our success.

Ryan has focused on economic development, sustainability, and community services during his three terms. Working collaboratively, Ryan has helped to attract and retain hundreds of high-quality jobs. Ryan also supported resources and plans to jumpstart revitalization projects in Olde Towne, Watkins Mill, Lakeforest Mall, Crown, Rio, and Kentlands – many of which are now underway.

At the same time, Ryan fights to protect the quality of our neighborhoods and schools. He has delivered expanded parkland, improved pedestrian/bicycle connections, cutting-edge environmental initiatives, and smoke-free playgrounds. As president of the Maryland Municipal League, he has successfully persuaded Annapolis to provide critical road funding and protect local control.

Ryan Spiegel is proud of our City's diversity, green buildings, excellent programs for youth and seniors, and our many free cultural events. By increasing public safety resources, Ryan also helped reduce major crime substantially in recent years, with community policing that values equity and trust.

Ryan's award-winning 'Bank on Gaithersburg' initiative helps families achieve financial stability. He advocates for affordable housing and safety-net services, while delivering a responsible debt-free budget and the lowest tax rate of any major city in Maryland.

Ryan and his wife Rachael are active members of Shaare Torah. They live in Washingtonian Woods with their two children, Jack and Dalia. Councilmember Spiegel asks for your vote to continue to maintain and improve our great quality of life.



Robert T. Wu

Candidate for City Council

It has been a distinct honor and privilege being trusted with the opportunity to serve the residents of this City over the past four years. I am running for reelection to the Gaithersburg City Council, and I hope that I

have sufficiently earned your trust to be given the same opportunity for the next four years.

I am excited about the future of Gaithersburg. The City is in a good fiscal position--no debt and expanding revenue, gives the City the ability to focus on quality of life improvements. Our commercial centers are thriving, providing opportunities for residents to live, work and play with various vibrant options available. We may have very real prospects of redevelopment projects in and around Olde Towne. My focus will be on pursuing sensible growth opportunities, while maintaining an appropriate balance between growth and maintaining the quality of life that we all know and love.

I hope to advance specific items in the new term such as expanding our role in supporting STEM education in the city (I am calling it the Gaithersburg STEM Consortium), working to expand focus on economic development, particularly on our biotech sector and main streets, and various environmental initiatives that the Environmental Affairs Committee have been advancing, such as composting and reduced reliance on harmful pesticides.

However, I am taking nothing for granted. Our campaign will work to earn your vote. If you support my past efforts, I ask for your vote on November 5th!

Age: 41

Residency in Gaithersburg: 14 Years

Education: Stanford Law School – J.D; University of Maryland, College Park (Honors Program) – B.A. in Journalism, magna cum laude; Pikesville High School, Baltimore, Md.; Graduate of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance

Occupation: Partner, Paley Rothman

Experience in Municipal, County, State or Federal Government: City of Gaithersburg: Council Member 2007 - present, Council Vice President 2018, 2015, 2012; Gaithersburg Committee Liaison: Economic and Business Development, Multicultural Affairs, Olde Towne Advisory Committee; Maryland Municipal League: Statewide President 2019 - 2020, Statewide Legislative Committee Chair 2017 - 2018, District Vice President to MML Board of Directors 2015 - 2018, Montgomery County Chapter President 2015 - 2017, Montgomery County Chapter Vice President 2012 - 2015; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Board of Directors 2016 - 2017, Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee; National League of Cities Transportation Infrastructure & Services Policy and Advocacy Committee 2009 - 2016; Gaithersburg Education Committee 2006 - 2007; Victim Services Advisory Board of Montgomery County: Chairman 2005 - 2006, Vice Chair 2004 - 2005; Legal Extern, U.S. State Department, Office of the Legal Counselor, U.S. Embassy -The Hague, 2002; Legal Extern/Summer Clerk, Chambers of U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, District of Columbia 2001; Intern, Office of U.S. Representative Ben Cardin 2000; Intern, Maryland Department of Planning (through UMBC Governor's Summer Internship Program) 1998.

Organizations, Committees, Clubs: Board of Directors of University of Maryland Hillel 2007 - 2009; Bar Association of Montgomery County 2013-present; Board of Directors of Youth Achieve, Inc. 2007- 2015; Board of Directors of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society 2000 - 2002; Board of Directors of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity 1999 - 2000; National Judge Advocate, United States Navy League 2017 - 2018

Awards/Special Recognition: The Daily Record VIP List (Successful by Age 40) 2018; Law360 Rising Star in Government Contracts (one of five nationwide) 2017; Maryland Super Lawyers Rising Star 2015 – 2018; Washington D.C. Super Lawyer "Rising Star" 2015 - 2018; Top Ten "Young Guns" of Montgomery County, Maryland Politics Watch 2009; Outstanding Achievement Award, Washington Lawyers Committee (for work on Immigrant and Refugee Rights) 2005; Winston & Strawn Pro Bono "Commitment to Justice" Award 2004; Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating (peer rated for highest level of professional excellence) 2019; Stanford Law School's Lawason Driscoll Moot Court Award 2003; Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship 2000; Alpha Sigma Phi National Scholar of the Year 1998; University of Maryland: H.C. Byrd Citizenship Award (most outstanding graduating male among all undergraduates university-wide) 2000; University of Maryland Banneker-Key Scholar 1996 - 2000

Special Interests: Spending time with my family; travel; gardening; helping to lead services at my synagogue; swimming

Campaign Website: www.ryanspiegel.com

Age: 42

Residency in Gaithersburg: 7 years

Education: Thesis Pending, George Washington University Law School, Masters of Law Candidate; University of San Francisco School of Law, Juris Doctor with Honors; Intellectual Property Law and Public Interest Law Certificates; Tufts University, Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Studies; Glen Cove High School, NY.

Occupation: Senior Attorney, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Reserves

Military Service: U.S. Army, 20 years, Lieutenant Colonel

Experience in Municipal, County, State or Federal Government: Gaithersburg City Council 2015 to present; U.S. Army active duty 2003 to 2009; U.S. Army Reserves 1999 to 2003, 2009 to present; U.S. Army Civilian 2009 to 2013; GAO 2013 to present

Organizations, Committees, Clubs: Watkins Mill Town Center HOA Board of Directors 2014 to present; Council Liaison to the Environmental Affairs, Police Advisory, and Multicultural Affairs Committees; Board Member, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; VFW 2003 to present; American Legion 2014 to present; American Bar Association 2009 to present; Brown Station Elementary School PTA 2014 to present; Maryland Municipal League Hometown Emergency Preparedness Committee 2018 to present

Awards/Special Recognition: Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters; Iraq Campaign Medal; Two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service

Special Interests: My son Julian, daughter Teresa and my wife Jamie; making my community a better place; wine and craft beer; procurement and appropriations law; good government

Campaign Website: www.voterobwu.com



**POLLING SITES ARE
NOT THE SAME AS FOR
FEDERAL, STATE AND
COUNTY ELECTIONS.**



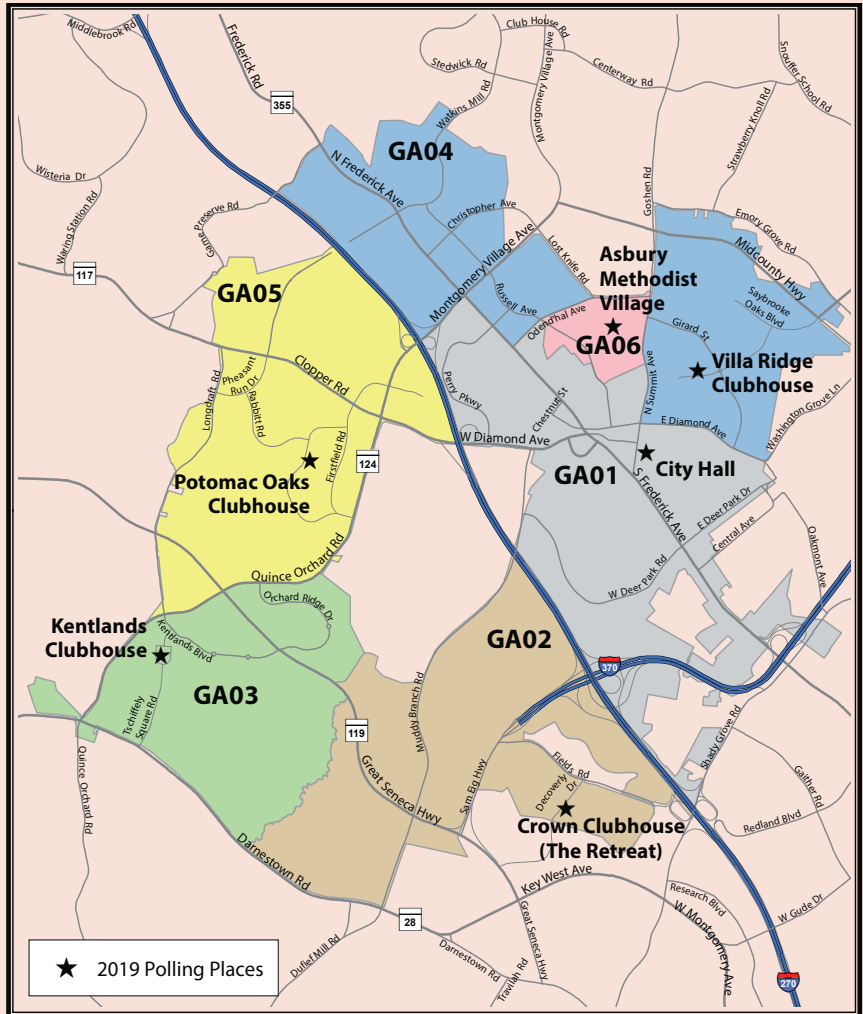
Important. Federal Funding Allocation for our Community
Easy. Online, by Phone, by Mail
Safe. Your Personal Information is Confidential & Legally Protected

+ info at gaithersburgmd.gov

Where Do I Vote?

There are six polling sites located throughout the City of Gaithersburg. Approximately one week before the election, registered voters will receive a sample ballot and a notice of election in the mail, indicating their polling location. On Election Day, you **MUST** vote at your specific precinct. Voters requiring accommodations may use the 1242 Electronic Voting machine, located at City Hall.

Please see related articles in this Voters Guide for information on absentee voting and early voting at City Hall.



- ★ ***GA01 – City Hall**
31 South Summit Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- ★ **GA02 – Crown Clubhouse**
803 Crown Park Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- ★ **GA03 – Kentlands Clubhouse**
485 Tschiffely Square Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- ★ **GA04 – Villa Ridge Community Room**
414 Girard St.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- ★ **GA05 – Potomac Oaks Clubhouse**
780 Quince Orchard Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- ★ **GA06 – Asbury Methodist Village**
(for Asbury residents only)
Rosborough Center
409 Russell Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

*Location of 1242 Electronic Voting Machine for voters requiring accommodations.

The City of Gaithersburg Voters Guide is produced by the:

Department of Community and Public Relations
Britta Monaco, Director

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