



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | www.CaribbeanPac.org

Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) Maryland – 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to cpac.dmv@gmail.com by Friday, April 13, 2018.
Responses will be shared with C-PAC’s membership.

Office Sought: State Senator

Candidate’s Name: Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

Current Occupation: Registered Nurse/Legislator

Party: Democratic

Campaign contact information (P.O. Box 31785 Baltimore, Maryland 21207

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1. Please explain your plan or approach to improve agency responsiveness, outreach, and the quality of Maryland’s constituent services.

My office has worked very diligently to provide timely and quality responses to constituent services. I have forged meaningful relationships with the heads of Maryland Agencies and my federal partners in order to get to the right decision makers within local, state, and Federal agencies.

2. Are there any legislative or policy proposals, which you support that would strengthen the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in the State of Maryland?

I have worked throughout my legislative career to support laws around immigration, economic growth, education, healthcare, and public safety all of which have an impact on Caribbean immigrants when they come to Maryland. I have also worked with the CASA organization that has endorsed my candidacy.

3. What do you intend to do to strengthen small business access to government contracts?

I have supported and continue to advocate for minority inclusion and small business access to government contracts.

4. What policies will you support to address the challenges facing DREAMers, the administration’s suspension of temporary protective status for many Maryland residents, and the threats facing sanctuary communities?



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I support the sanctuary policy in Maryland, I was a co-sponsor for the Dream Act. I also support policy and legislation to end racial profiling, and actions of intimidation against immigrants.

5. How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the Maryland's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned business?

As a small business owner I advocate for increasing opportunities to improve access to economic growth and providing education on the criteria needed to qualify for contracts. As a member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and Women Legislators of Maryland we came together to forge an alliance and succeeded in getting the 25% goal for contracting for Minority Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise.

6. The Caribbean is a strong trading partner with the U.S., and there are opportunities to create economic benefits for both Maryland and Caribbean residents. How do you support strengthening business, social and cultural relations and exchanges between County residents and the Caribbean?

I have built strong relationships with the Ambassadors for Caribbean nations and facilitate opportunities for them to visit Annapolis to address my colleagues as well as scheduled meetings with Secretaries of the pertinent cabinets, like Agriculture, Commerce, Secretary of State. I was able to do this for Ambassador Thomas. I have invited the current Ambassador but she has not been able to schedule a time to visit yet. I am willing to do the same for others.

7. What specific actions have you taken or will you take to support the Caribbean-American community in the State of Maryland?

I am an advisor to the DC Baltimore Carnival and Institute of Caribbean Studies. I am a founder of the Jamaican Association of Maryland, I work with Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Antigua Associations, I am a life long member to Caribbean American Intercultural Organization.

I also worked very diligently with the former Lt. Governor Anthony Brown to establish the Governor's Commission of Caribbean Affairs.

As a founding member of JAMA I am proud this organization provides scholarships for Caribbean students that need funding to support their education.

8. Over 3,000 children of immigrants enter Maryland schools every year. Many of them are children of color with cultural idiosyncrasies and language accents or differences, which earn them labels such as "troublesome" or as having ADHD or other disorders. Still others end up



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in the juvenile justice system. What are your plans to ensure that we have a cadre of well-trained, culturally competent and sensitive teachers who understand and are willing to help these children succeed in school?

Caribbean students are dispersed throughout the counties I serve in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. I have supported legislation regarding cultural competency and literacy to be provided across agencies and the spectrum of education providers. Also support cultural days to show the diversity of school body through music, foods, and dancing. I am aware of the need for more cultural sensitivity and training for teachers, I have not had any direct complaints from constituents but will continue to work with State to ensure improvements.

9. What initiatives will you champion or support to strengthen services and programs for Maryland's senior citizens?

I have always championed providing senior citizens with quality services. As a business owner of a medical adult day care center that serves this population as well as the disabled I am keenly aware of the social, economic, and health care needs of our senior citizens. I have supported tax relief for those over 70 in my district, and support reduction of prescription drug prices. I have also supported legislation for quality nursing homes and assisted living care facilities, I serve on the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities.

10. What issues are you most concerned about in your run for political office?

My key issues that I have worked on as a legislator for 24 years are:

- **Health care for all- providing accessibility and quality**
- **Education Equity**
- **Public Safety**
- **Economic Development**
- **Environment**