



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) Montgomery County, 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: Montgomery County Executive

Candidate’s Name: Robin Ficker

Current Occupation: Attorney, Real Estate Broker, Farmer

Party: Independent Republican

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): 16711 Barnesville Rd. Boyds, Md. 20841 301-652-1500, 301-982-1501, robinficker@msn.com, robindeliversforyou.com

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

I have never met a Montgomery Countian I didn’t like. I’ll make sure the county government reflects that view in constituent services. Also, it was Lyndon Johnson’s practice to answer every piece of constituent mail the same day it came in. I’ll instruct that Montgomery County workers should do the same thing.

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

Look, I am the only candidate for County Executive who has ANY experience whatsoever in the Maryland Court system, having completed 35,000+ cases. And I have represented hundreds of Caribbean immigrants. I don’t need an advisory committee to tell me what discrimination is; for, I know it when I see it. Starting at 6 a.m. every Monday morning, I will hold open hours with the County Executive, first come, first served. If anybody has a new idea, suggestion, report of discrimination or unfairness, or hope they want to express to me, I shall be there to listen and to do something about it.

3. What do you intend to do to strengthens small business access to government contracts? Publicize widely the request for proposals. Insist on fair consideration of proposals on the merits. Make sure that all groups, including Caribbeans, are represented on boards that pick award winners.
4. What policies will you support to address the challenges facing DREAMers, the administration’s suspension of temporary protective status for many County residents, and the threats facing sanctuary communities?



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I would encourage our Members of Congress to do their job and pass meaningful DREAMER legislation. They talk the talk, but don't walk the walk. Immigration law is tricky and many lawyers are not knowledgeable about it. I would propose immigration law education classes for all county residents who want them at the Takoma Park, Rockville and Germantown locations of Montgomery College.

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

Most of the money for small businesses comes from the owners themselves. 9% property tax increases, 30% increases in real estate transfer taxes, and 156% hikes in residential energy taxes are unnecessary. Our small business owners are not ATMs for the county government. Also the county's return on reserve funds, pension funds and health care trust funds have been substandard. 2017 was the best year for the stock market in 30 years. Yet, our hundreds of millions of dollar\$ of investments have returns less than any index funds. A fair return would have freed up money for Montgomery County's small businesses.

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?

Have open welcoming arms for Caribbean businesses that want to locate in or trade in Montgomery County. Strongly support purchases from Monroe Doctrine countries. Montgomery County has well over 1,000,000 residents, the state of Maryland over 6,000,000. Work with the Governor, not against him, to establish good trade relations with Caribbean countries.

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

Have Caribbean-American community days to extol the people of the Caribbean and their industries and products. Encourage the purchase of Caribbean food products by the County government. Luckily many Caribbean-Americans speak English. For those who do not, I would encourage English Saturdays where county volunteers would teach English. It is not difficult to suggest visiting the Caribbean for winter vacation!

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 in the juvenile justice system. What are your plans to ensure that we have a cadre of well-



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trained, culturally competent and sensitive teachers who understand and are willing to help these children succeed in school?

I recommend that every Montgomery County school child run or walk a mile during every school day. MoCo school kids get only 30 minutes of physical education a WEEK! MoCo juvenile judges are fair if any child ends up there. I've represented hundreds of kids there. It is difficult for the County Executive to tell the School Board to train its teachers to be culturally sensitive. They should know this. I would meet with the Superintendent to review his methods and policies regarding cultural idiosyncrasies.

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

Many seniors are living on the edge financially. The recent 9% property tax hike, 30% increase in the real estate transfer tax and the 156% increase in the county residential energy tax have impacted them. I expect to hold the line on taxes for the next 4 years.

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

Improving transportation. I-270 is a parking lot. We need two new reversible lanes and a widened Cabin John Bridge. Montrose East Parkway, M-83, & Goshen Road are other needed projects.

Also a kinder, gentler, smarter County would be a good thing. Thus 50% of my appointments will be women. I won the definitive sex discrimination lawsuit in Montgomery County, *Drudge v. McKernon*. A Federal Consent Decree ended the county practice of rating female job applicants from upper to lower quarter as to physique and facial features and halted questions about child care arrangements and marital status.

I am using public financing, contributions less than \$150. Small contributions are matched 6-1 for County Executive only. Go to Robindeliversforyou.com or Robinficker.com to help and learn my priorities.