



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

Office Sought: Prince Georges County Executive

Candidate's Name: Billy Bridges

Current Occupation: IT Professional

Party: Democrat

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1. Please explain your plan or approach to improve agency responsiveness, outreach, and the quality of the Prince George's County's constituent services. As a military veteran, I believe in order, consistency, professionalism, and accountability at all times. This means there can never be an excuse for rudeness, lack of response, or unprofessional service. Those that are guilty of such activity will face retraining or disciplinary actions.
2. Are there any legislative or policy proposals, which you support that would strengthen the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in Prince George's County? I have some aggressive economic policies to create wealth and better communities through individual investments. In addition, as a former law enforcement officer, I seek to increase the size of our police force and implement plans that allow officers and communities to work together as one.
3. What do you intend to do to strengthens small business access to government contracts? It has come to my understanding that there are practices in place that limit the access for citizens to small business contracts. As mentioned before, I have no tolerance for lack of integrity. My New Prince Georges County Plan requires an Office of Inspector General to deal with those that lack the integrity to make government work fairly.
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? I would recommend that these citizens that appear to be in jeopardy, pool their monies to buy into corporate stocks. My idea is that they will then be able to claim status here based on business operations just like the rich foreign tycoons that come and go as they please.
5. How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the Maryland's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned business? We must limit the tax structure to not place pressures on these businesses. A gentleman at one forum explained that the proposed increase in minimum wage for the area will put small business owners out of business. I agreed with him and let him know that the government must use common sense and give exceptions to businesses that have under a certain income each year. He nodded and shook hands in approval.



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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? After seeing the hurricane devastations last year and the slow government response, it made me wonder why? I believe in aggressive trade relationships with the Caribbean and Africa. The citizens already here will make for great ambassadors and stewards for these ventures.
7. What specific actions have you taken or will you take to support the Caribbean-American community in the Prince George's County? This is my first run for elected office, but I am well versed in government. There will be either a cabinet level position or a Caribbean-American Advisory Council that will meet with me at least monthly or more.
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-trained, culturally competent and sensitive teachers who understand and are willing to help these children succeed in school? As educator and employee of the Prince Georges County Public Schools for the past 20 years, I am very sensitive to this matter. So often the ESOL resources seem to ignore these students. I will make sure that screening process is better and schools that have higher populations will have a language liaison to help students, staff, and parents. Cultural and sensitivity training can easily be added to annual teacher orientations.
9. What initiatives will you champion or support to strengthen services and programs for Prince George's County senior citizens? I have a big place in my heart for senior citizens. I will make sure that the Prince Georges County Government partners with churches, community groups, and non-profits to create a Care Network that proactively checks on our seniors regularly. I mentioned this and confidential numbers that citizens can call if a senior citizen neighbor is lacking anything or in duress.
10. What issues are you most concerned about in your run for political office? I entered this race as a mission to bring Prayer Opportunities back to our public schools, to create excellence in education, to improve the economy to work for everyone, to make communities safer, to bring a better relationship between law enforcement and the communities, mandating financial transparency, to require full accountability to wipe out corruption in government by creating an Office of Inspector General.