



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 - 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

Please upload the completed form here: <https://www.caribbeanpac.org/news-candidate-responses.php> and submit it by 11:59 PM (EST) on Friday, June 13, 2022. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

Office Sought:

Candidate's Name: Paul Schwartz

Current Occupation:

Party:

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website):

1. What have you done, or will you do to ensure the interests of the Caribbean community in Montgomery County are being adequately addressed?

Inclusion. If elected, I will reach out to the Caribbean community as I will to all other communities comprising District 7 and build a partnership to identify issues impacting the Caribbean community and work with them to develop solutions to address those issues.

2. The Caribbean- American Advisory Group (CAAG) was established by former County Executive Isaiah Leggett and continued by the current County Executive Marc Elrich, if you are elected will you support continuity of CAAG in its current form as an autonomous group

Absolutely yes. Who better to identify the issues and work with me to address the issues identified?

3. Will you proactively encourage and facilitate members of the Caribbean community of Montgomery County to be appointed to County Boards? Please explain what mechanism your office would establish to give effect to this policy.

Diversity is a strength. Diverse representation on county boards increases the likelihood that the issues impacting all Montgomery residents are identified. It should be the policy that selection of board members reflects the diverse population of Montgomery County and it should be reflected in the selection rules that a specific percentage of minorities be



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placed on county boards and that specific minorities are represented on at least some of the boards depending on the nature of the particular board.

4. Please explain what policies you would espouse and implement to make Montgomery County **a safe haven** for undocumented Caribbean immigrants.

It is in the best interests of all of Montgomery County, including law enforcement, that none of our residents fear coming out from behind the shadows. Clearly, we need a pathway to citizenship at the federal level, but until that occurs, none of our undocumented residents should fear deportation for simply being undocumented. Deportations should and must be reserved for violent crimes. That should be the policy of the county and reflected in our law enforcement policies and how our law enforcement may coordinate with I.C.E.

5. Will you support continuity of Montgomery County as welcoming Caribbean immigrants and settlement of the Region's refugees?

Absolutely YES. These immigrants play a very import role in our community and serve many of the functions that would not ordinarily be served without them from healthcare workers to lawn maintenance. Until we see a pathway to citizenship coming out of the federal government, it should not be the county who drives these immigrants to hide in the shadows. No resident of Montgomery County should live in such fear and our policies should reflect that commitment.

6. Will you support availability of books by Caribbean authors and about the Caribbean in libraries and in the schools?

Certainly. All cultures should be reflected in our schools and libraries, and it is to the benefit of all cultures in Montgomery County to be exposed to the various cultures that comprise our community. I would certainly not want to see the 18th century mindset found in Florida and Texas raise its ugly head in 21st century Montgomery County.

7. It is difficult to balance crime prevention and community safety with trust and improved relations with local law enforcement. How will you work to strike this balance?

The implementation of the Police Accountability Board is a major first step in developing the trust between the police and the community, BUT only if the Board is given some "teeth" to address misconduct. That is crucial to developing the trust that is needed not just for the community but so that the police can do a better job of protecting our residents. I am also in favor of providing housing subsidies for police so that they would be encouraged to live in the communities in which they serve



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and be in better position to build the relationships with the community members which leads to building trust. That trust contributes to more effective police work since relying on community members is critical to effective policing. The same goes for SRO's in that building relationships with the school members, both teachers and students, makes for a more effective SRO.