



# The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

| [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

## Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to [cpac.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:cpac.dmv@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

**Office Sought: Montgomery County Council, District 3**

**Candidate's Name: Izola Shaw**

**Current Occupation: Rockville City Council**

**Party: Democrat**

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

**Jovy Lopez | 347-986-5060 | [izola@izola4progress.org](mailto:izola@izola4progress.org) | [www.izola4progress.org](http://www.izola4progress.org)**

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1. If elected, how would you proactively and consistently engage with Caribbean-American constituents, groups, local leaders, and organizations in your constituency?

I'll work closely with the existing Caribbean American Advisory Group and the community liaison to ensure the needs and perspectives of Caribbean-American residents are consistently heard and addressed. I'll attend monthly meetings, participate in events like Caribbean American Heritage Month, and maintain open communication with both the Advisory Group and the wider community. My goal is to strengthen these partnerships and make sure Caribbean-American voices are reflected in county decisions and policy discussions throughout the year.

2. How would your office address barriers Caribbean immigrants face when accessing public services such as healthcare, safe, affordable housing, education or social programs that disproportionately affect them?

*If elected, my office will work to remove barriers Caribbean immigrants face in accessing public services by making county information and resources more accessible, culturally relevant, and available in multiple languages. I'll collaborate with the Caribbean American Advisory Group to identify specific gaps in healthcare, housing, education, and social programs, and advocate for targeted outreach and support. This means expanding translation services, hiring culturally competent staff, and ensuring Caribbean families know about and can easily navigate county programs. I'll also push for regular feedback sessions with the community, so we can address issues as they arise and make real progress toward equity in Montgomery County.*



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3. How do you ensure culturally responsive services for Caribbean-American residents across agencies (e.g., health, education, law enforcement, etc.)?

*To ensure culturally responsive services, I'll advocate for ongoing training across all county agencies so staff understand the unique experiences and needs of Caribbean-American residents. I'll work with the Caribbean American Advisory Group and community leaders to develop these trainings and review agency practices. By keeping open lines of communication and making cultural responsiveness a county-wide priority, we can make sure every resident feels seen, respected, and served fairly.*

4. What initiatives will you lead and/or support that benefit Caribbean-American small business owners and workers, particularly in industries where they are heavily represented?

*I will champion initiatives to help Caribbean-American small business owners and workers thrive. I'll work with the Caribbean American Advisory Group, local chambers of commerce, Montgomery College, economic development partners, and other community organizations to host roundtables and listening sessions focused on real business challenges. My office will push for streamlining county permitting and licensing, expanding access to technical assistance, and connecting entrepreneurs with training and funding opportunities. I'll also support programs that help Caribbean-American workers advance in their fields, making sure county resources reach those who need them most. By building strong partnerships and removing unnecessary barriers, we can help Caribbean-owned businesses grow and create good jobs in Montgomery County.*

5. What support would you provide for Caribbean-American students and parents, including language assistance and help navigating the school system?

*I will advocate for increased language assistance and culturally relevant resources in our schools, so Caribbean-American students and parents can fully participate and succeed. This means supporting more translators and bilingual staff, making sure important school information is available in the languages families speak at home, and offering workshops to help parents navigate enrollment, special programs, and college pathways. I'll also work with Caribbean community leaders and the school system to ensure students see their cultures reflected in the curriculum and school events. My goal is for every Caribbean-American family to feel welcomed, informed, and empowered within Montgomery County's schools.*

6. How would you advance partnerships with Caribbean-American community organizations to promote mental health, chronic disease prevention, or other wellness initiatives?



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*I will prioritize collaboration between the Caribbean-American community, local organizations, and county programs like the African American Health Program (AAHP) to address health disparities and promote wellness. By working together, we can create culturally relevant mental health and chronic disease prevention initiatives, co-host health fairs, and share resources across communities. I'll support joint workshops, outreach, and education efforts that are responsive to the needs of Caribbean-American residents, making sure no one falls through the cracks when it comes to health and wellness in Montgomery County.*

7. How will you build trust and conduct robust oversight on local, law enforcement to protect the rights, security, and safety of Caribbean-American residents?

*Building trust between law enforcement and Caribbean-American residents starts with accountability and open dialogue. I'll push for robust oversight of local law enforcement, support community policing models, and advocate for regular town halls where residents can share concerns and ask questions directly. I'll work with the Caribbean American Advisory Group to ensure Caribbean voices are heard in public safety decisions, and push for transparency in police data and disciplinary processes. My office will champion bias and cultural awareness training for officers, and support recruitment from within our diverse communities. Protecting rights and ensuring safety means law enforcement must treat every resident with respect and fairness—and I'll hold them to that standard.*

8. What programs, funding opportunities, or policy efforts will you champion that are aimed at improving outcomes for Caribbean-American communities?

*Montgomery County offers valuable programs, but there's clear room to better serve Caribbean-American communities. If elected, I will work to expand language access, ensure county services are more visible and available within Caribbean neighborhoods, and improve the reach of small business grants and technical assistance to Caribbean entrepreneurs.*

*I will collaborate with the Caribbean American Advisory Group to design initiatives such as mentorship programs, workforce development pipelines, and culturally tailored health outreach. I will also advocate for direct funding opportunities for Caribbean-led organizations, empowering the community to shape solutions that reflect its needs and strengths.*

*My focus will be on removing barriers, scaling proven programs, and building strong partnerships so that county policy truly supports and uplifts every Caribbean-American resident.*



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