



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) 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to 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 At-Large

Candidate's Name: Fatmata Barrie

Current Occupation: Immigration and Special Education Attorney

Party: Democratic

Campaign Contact Information:

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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 have been a community activist for over 30 years, and my engagement is rooted in relationships, not just outreach. Having grown up in South Florida with deep ties to Caribbean communities and now maintaining relationships with some members of Montgomery County's Caribbean American Advisory Group and community at-large, I understand the importance of consistent, culturally grounded engagement.

As a Councilmember, I will maintain an open-door policy, host regular listening sessions in the community, and proactively partner with Caribbean-American organizations, faith leaders, and small business owners. Engagement will be ongoing, intentional, and rooted in trust. I believe we must work together for all of us to progress.



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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?

As a Black immigrant and immigration attorney, I see firsthand how disparities in access to resources impact Black immigrant communities, including many Caribbean residents. These disparities are not just about availability, they are about awareness, trust, and navigation.

I will work to ensure that county resources are not only available but accessible and clearly communicated. That means bringing services into the community through trusted partners, improving language access, and ensuring agencies are accountable for equitable distribution of resources in healthcare, housing, education, and social services.

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

Culturally responsive service delivery starts with inclusion at the decision-making table. Too often, services are designed without meaningful input from the communities they are meant to serve.

It's important to ensure community leaders and organizations are part of the process when we're doing outreach and discussing county resources to make sure they are culturally appropriate and responsive to community needs. As council member, I will maintain an open line of communication and make sure my staff and I host outreach events in the community and with the community.

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?

Caribbean-American entrepreneurs are vital to Montgomery County's economy and are part of a vibrant small business community. However, many face unnecessary barriers navigating permits, procurement, and county systems.



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Small businesses are the backbone of our community and our economy. When I talk to small business owners, one of their biggest concerns is the amount of bureaucracy, unclear processes for gaining permits, securing procurements and the feeling you need to know someone to get things done. That ends with me. Our county's economy thrives when residents are able and willing to open businesses. I will be a champion for business owners and will work to make sure the path is clear for them to build a business in Montgomery County.

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

As a special education attorney, I have worked closely with immigrant families, including Caribbean families, who are trying to navigate a complex school system.

I understand how language barriers, lack of information, and cultural differences can make advocacy difficult. I will push for stronger multilingual resources, clearer communication from schools, and increased support for parents so they can effectively advocate for their children.

Every family deserves to understand the system and to feel empowered within it.

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

My work in Councilmember Jawando's office and in the broader African Diaspora community has centered on connecting residents to critical health resources.

I will build on that experience by strengthening partnerships with Caribbean-American organizations to address mental health, chronic disease prevention, and access to care. This includes meeting people where they are—through churches, community groups, and trusted spaces—and ensuring information is culturally relevant and accessible.



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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?

In my role as Executive Director of the Police Accountability Board, I was responsible for building relationships between communities and local law enforcement as well as ensuring law enforcement is held accountable when they act irresponsibly.

As a Black immigrant and immigration attorney, I am deeply aware of the fear that policing and immigration enforcement can create in our communities. While Maryland has taken important steps to limit local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, we must remain vigilant.

I will prioritize transparency, accountability, and policies that protect the rights, dignity, and safety of Caribbean-American residents and all communities.

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

I am committed to advancing policies that create real economic opportunity and equitable access to resources for Caribbean-American communities.

This includes expanding support for small businesses, improving access to county contracts, and ensuring that funding and programs reach communities that have historically been overlooked.

As someone who has experienced and witnessed inequities firsthand, I will bring both urgency and intentionality to ensuring Caribbean-American residents are not only included—but prioritized in our county's growth.

Whether a catering business, hair salon or a mechanic shop, small businesses are the backbone of our communities, as a councilmember I want to ensure our communities can grow and prosper within Montgomery County.