



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: Marc Elrich

Current Occupation: Montgomery County Executive

Party: Democratic Party

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

**Jovy Lopez | 347-986-5060 | 7511 St Andrews Way Silver Spring MD 20901
info@marcelrich.org**

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

In my time as Executive, I have prioritized meeting frequently with community groups, including the Caribbean-American community. The county has a liaison that works directly with these constituents but I have personally attended many events for the community. You will see this work and outreach continue as Councilmember.

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?

I am proud to have always voted to secure and expand county social safety net services and funding for nonprofits that serve the needs of immigrant and non-immigrant communities, including Caribbean-Americans. In my term as County Executive, we've increased funding for many programs so that we can meet the needs of all underrepresented communities. I will continue to support funding of programs that address these critical services.

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



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Our hiring policies have a commitment to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in our workforce. It has resulted in an increasingly diverse workforce where many employees belong to the diverse communities in our county, including Caribbean-Americans, which allows us to provide culturally-appropriate outreach to constituencies that are often left behind.

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?

As a Councilmember, I'll continue to expand diversity programming and policies that we have worked diligently to put in place. We recognize that community groups have a deeper reach in the community than local government does and that has increased partnerships with local groups. We have a Small Business Center that works directly with small business owners and our Worksource Montgomery provides job training and skill-building to the workforce. The county also helps fund CASA's job training programs that serve a very broad population. I am dedicated to ensuring these programs remain funded.

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

Although the state of Maryland runs the school system, the county's purview is to enact policies within. We work to support their efforts to increase outreach to parents and fund community schools that have more engagement and wraparound services for parents and students alike. We support programs for language support run by MCAEL at the County-level; they are the primary agency supporting language skills for newcomers who don't speak English.

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

We fund community clinics throughout the county, which serve all our communities. I've made it a point to visit each one, as all of



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them serve a crucial role for those that need it. We take feedback to heart if anyone reports feeling there's a lack of inclusion and we would work directly with the clinics to improve upon this concern and do diligent outreach. These issues can also be brought to the county government through our Caribbean community liaison, which was created exactly to ensure diverse community needs are being addressed.

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?

The County currently has two citizen boards that handle issues related to policing in the community, working to ensure that our local law enforcement is not engaging in any misconduct. I created the Police Accountability Board, which deals directly with specific complaints about inappropriate interactions with residents. These were put in place during my tenure to be responsive to community concerns about policing and to foster trust.

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

Through the County's robust grant program, opportunities are provided for different groups to apply for funding for specific programs. The grants office in the County government can help community members navigate the process for anyone who needs support. On top of our existing programs, I am always open to discussing any specific barriers Caribbean-Americans are burdened with that need to be addressed so we can work together towards improving their lives.