



# 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 Councilmember At-Large

**Candidate's Name:** Laurie-Anne Sayles

**Current Occupation:** Incumbent Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

**Party:** Democrat

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

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

➤ *As a proud Jamaican-American and the first Black woman elected countywide in Montgomery County, my commitment to the Caribbean community is both personal and proven. From hosting our annual Caribbean American Heritage Month celebration to organizing a countywide supply drive in response to the devastating hurricane in Jamaica, I have intentionally created spaces to celebrate our culture and respond in moments of need. These efforts have been recognized across the community and local media as part of my broader commitment to visibility and service.*

➤ *When reelected, I will continue building on this strong foundation by convening regular roundtables with Caribbean-American leaders, faith-based organizations, and cultural groups, and maintaining a consistent presence at community events and small businesses. I will also formalize a Caribbean-American advisory group to ensure sustained engagement and accountability. My focus remains clear: continued engagement, empowerment, upliftment, and investment in our community.*



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- ❖ How would your office address the barriers Caribbean immigrants face when accessing public services such as healthcare, safe, affordable housing, education, or social programs that disproportionately affect them?
  - *As Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I have made equitable access a top priority. This includes advancing funding, oversight, and community-based partnerships that connect with residents where they are. I recognize that Caribbean immigrants often encounter barriers related to language access, cultural understanding, and trust in government systems.*
  - *When reelected, I will build on this leadership by expanding multilingual outreach, strengthening navigator programs, and holding agencies accountable for providing culturally responsive services. I will continue to promote policy and economic investments that produce more affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and robust social supports, because equity must be assessed not just by intention but by results. My commitment is to eliminate barriers and ensure that Caribbean-American residents can fully access the services they need to thrive and age in place.*
  
- ❖ How do you ensure culturally responsive services for Caribbean-American residents across agencies (e.g., health, education, law enforcement, etc.)?
  - *I have consistently supported efforts to advance cultural competency across county government, recognizing that representation and understanding are critical to effective service delivery. Through my leadership, now as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, we have elevated equity and inclusion across agencies and strengthened accountability in how services are delivered.*
  - *When reelected, I will continue to advance policies that require cultural competency training, support diverse hiring, and embed equity into agency performance metrics. I also remain open to recommendations and responsive to ideas from our Caribbean diaspora to deepen cultural understanding and improve service delivery. My commitment is to ensure our systems reflect, respect, and effectively serve Caribbean-American residents while continuing to build on a strong foundation of engagement, empowerment, upliftment, and investment.*



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- ❖ 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?
  - *My grandfather was a sugarcane farmer and owned his own shop in Jamaica. My Mother was a savvy business woman who knew how to sell, fundraise, and leverage her skillset to multiply her earnings which is why I have been a strong advocate for small businesses and workers, with a focus on expanding access to capital, procurement, and workforce development, particularly in industries where Caribbean-American entrepreneurs and workers are heavily represented, including healthcare, hospitality, construction, home care, and personal services.*
  - *Montgomery County has strong tools in place, and I have supported efforts to maximize their impact, including MicroLoan and Small Business Assistance programs that help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses, as well as grant programs that support expansion and job creation.*
  - *I have also supported policies that expand participation in county contracting, including the Local Small Business Reserve Program and initiatives that prioritize minority-owned firms, helping more small businesses compete and succeed.*
  - *When reelected, I will strengthen pathways into procurement, expand technical assistance, and ensure Caribbean-American entrepreneurs can fully access opportunities in these key industries. I will also continue investing in workforce development through partnerships like WorkSource Montgomery, connecting residents to training and good-paying jobs in these same sectors.*
  - *My focus is sustained investment that removes barriers, builds capacity, and advances real economic mobility, ensuring Caribbean-American small business owners and workers are not only included but positioned to thrive.*
  
- ❖ What support would you provide for Caribbean-American students and parents, including language assistance and help navigating the school system?



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- *As a Councilmember, I have supported initiatives that strengthen family engagement and educational access, recognizing that Caribbean-American families must feel fully seen, supported, and empowered within our school system. I understand that navigating MCPS can be complex, especially for immigrant parents balancing language barriers, new systems, and competing responsibilities.*
  - *Through my SMART Agenda, I have centered strengthening education from cradle to career and beyond, ensuring that supports begin early and continue through graduation and into workforce or higher education pathways. When reelected, I will continue advancing expanded language access services, stronger interpretation and translation support, and more culturally competent family engagement across schools.*
  - *I will also support deeper partnerships between MCPS and community-based organizations to help parents navigate enrollment, special education services, academic supports, and postsecondary pathways. In addition, I will continue championing mentorship and enrichment opportunities that uplift Caribbean-American students academically and culturally across every stage of learning.*
  - *My focus is on removing barriers across the full education continuum, strengthening trust, and ensuring every Caribbean-American student and parent has the tools, access, and support to succeed from cradle to career and beyond.*
- ❖ How would you advance partnerships with Caribbean-American community organizations to promote mental health, chronic disease prevention, or other wellness initiatives?
- *As Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I have prioritized addressing health disparities and strengthening community-based solutions that meet residents where they are. I have worked alongside Caribbean-American organizations to expand outreach on chronic disease prevention, increase access to care, and elevate culturally responsive wellness education.*
  - *I also recognize the important role of Montgomery County's Office of Community Partnerships in serving as a bridge between government*



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*and trusted community-based organizations. When reelected, I will continue to strengthen this collaboration by deepening engagement between OCP and Caribbean-American organizations to support mental health awareness, chronic disease prevention, and broader wellness initiatives.*

- *This includes expanding partnerships that support culturally competent mental health services, community health screenings, and education on conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. My focus is on sustained investment, trusted partnerships, and ensuring Caribbean-American residents have equitable access to the resources they need to live healthy, supported lives.*

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

- *I have consistently exercised strong oversight of public safety systems with a focus on transparency, accountability, and rebuilding trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve, including Caribbean-American residents.*
- *In Montgomery County, this includes my work as Councilmember and Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, as well as my participation in public safety oversight through Council committees that review MCPD operations, staffing, and accountability systems, including the Police Accountability Board and Inspector General findings. These structures are critical tools for ensuring independent review of police conduct and strengthening community trust in outcomes and processes.*
- *I have also supported investments in community policing and engagement efforts that reflect best practices in civilian oversight, including strengthening communication between MCPD's Community Engagement Division and residents to improve trust and responsiveness.*
- *When reelected, I will continue to strengthen civilian oversight mechanisms, support data-driven accountability through the Police Accountability Board and Inspector General process, and advance*



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*community-centered policing strategies that emphasize de-escalation, bias awareness, and cultural competency. I will also continue to ensure that Caribbean-American residents feel protected, respected, and fully included in public safety decision-making.*

- *My commitment is to sustained oversight, stronger transparency, and public safety systems that earn and maintain community trust.*

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

- *My record reflects a strong commitment to equity-driven investments across housing, healthcare, education, and economic development, including support for community-based organizations serving Caribbean-American residents.*
- *When reelected, I will continue to champion funding and policy initiatives that expand workforce development, strengthen access to culturally competent healthcare and mental health services, and increase investment in small business and youth opportunity programs. I will also continue to prioritize partnerships with trusted community organizations to ensure resources are effectively reaching the Caribbean-American community.*
- *My focus remains on delivering measurable outcomes and building on my track record of engagement, empowerment, upliftment, and investment so Caribbean-American communities are fully supported and positioned to thrive.*