



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: At-Large, Montgomery County Council

Candidate's Name: Vicki Vergagni

Current Occupation: On-Site Community Manager

Party: Democrat

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

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

As I have done in my personal and professional lives, I will commit to an open door policy with all migrant communities. As the On-Site Community Manager of a community representing numerous nations, I appreciate the many contributions that our Caribbean neighbors and friends make to our community. I am hopeful that your community leaders and organizations will invite me to events and festivals that they may be hosting.

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?

Again, I am committed to addressing the unique challenges that individuals of all of my constituent groups face. For example, from conversations with my Haitian friends, I have learned that Caribbean-Americans face many of the same challenges as other immigrant communities (e.g., healthcare, safe and affordable housing, education and social programs), as well as unique languages (e.g., Kreyol). I will vigorously support programs focused on preventive (as opposed to emergency) medical and dental care; affordable housing in safe neighborhoods; a public education that assures high school graduates have a minimum of ninth-grade skills in English and math; and programs that respect the cultural roots of all while supporting social and economic integration into the U.S. melting pot.



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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.)?

Communication is the basis for providing services, so I would assure that culturally-sensitive individuals with the essential language skills are available to assist with interactions between Caribbean-American residents and various government agencies. This is important because every culture has highly-sensitive issues (e.g., significant number of HIV/AIDS cases, stigmas around sexuality) that must be addressed within each culture's norms. A serious economic challenge for Caribbean-American residents is acceptance of their advanced educational achievements. I am committed to working with professional societies to find affordable, local, time-sensitive solutions to acknowledge and reciprocate professional credentials (e.g., medicine).

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?

A drive down Georgia Avenue clearly highlights the importance of food and beverage as both culinary and cultural pillars of Caribbean communities. Caribbean immigrants also are heavily represented in transportation with many owning taxi and rideshare businesses. And then there are the omnipresent Caribbean barbershops and hair salons. All of these enterprises have one key characteristic that I can address in meaningful ways: small business that provides service to the general public. As the owner of a small service business for 20+ years, I understand and appreciate the daily challenges of business ownership, employees and contractors, government regulations, etc. I will collaborate with small business to adopt government policies and procedures that support small businesses instead of burdening them.

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

Montgomery County currently offers a wide range of support to migrant families. From your question, it is clear that there are a number of issues



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related to language assistance and navigation of the school system. I will commit to meeting with parents and students to better understand the issues and solutions proposed by Caribbean-Americans. Then I would direct staff to research those issues and proposed solutions with representatives of the school system. I would then form a small, informal work group composed of Caribbean American parents and students and representatives of the school system (e.g., administrator, teacher, counselor) to clearly define the challenges and then explore potential solutions that address them to create win-win-win solutions for parents, students and the school system. One of the key elements that I would like to see addressed is language assistance for Haitians.

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

My first action would be to meet with leaders of Caribbean-American community organizations to get their perspective on the challenges of their constituents receiving services related to mental health, chronic disease prevention and other wellness initiatives. I also would seek guidance from these organizations on potential solutions. On that basis, I would have staff evaluate existing programs to identify their shortfalls and to then draft potential solutions in conjunction with representatives of those programs. At that time, it would be appropriate to follow the model outlined in question 5 with a small, informal work group to create win-win-win solutions for all parties. With regard to new initiatives in these areas, I would seek input from a leader selected by the Caribbean-American community to assure that the needs of the Caribbean diaspora groups are not overlooked in the American melting pot.

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?

Contrary to what one would be led to believe by the actions of the Trump Administration, the rule of law is to assure equal treatment with regard to the rights of all within the borders of the United States of America. All of us except for Native Americans were immigrants; we have prospered as a



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country through mutual respect of our diverse contributions. My actions in daily life (since a first-grader when I physically defended my friend with a mental disability) and up to now on public policy issues as an independent citizen (who has single-handedly initiated and successfully led the passage of public policy that supports the disabled and our lowest wage earners), speak volumes about my commitment to the dignity of all. One of the Montgomery County Council standing committees on which I would like to serve is Public Safety. As the On-Site Manager in a dense, working-class community, the police will be the first to tell you that I am an outspoken advocate for the rights, security, and safety of all of my residents who come from 55 countries. When I meet and/or work with individuals, my conduct builds trust. I am not shy about researching issues and speaking out truthfully about what I find. My belief is that open, honest communication is the approach most certain to provide a positive outcome for all parties.

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

My commitment to all of my constituents is to identify the unique challenges facing them as individuals and/or groups, and to finding through collaboration the best solution for all parties. I support culturally responsive policies and programs (including language) that address:

- **housing** that is safe and affordable, and does not call upon the same individuals who live near public transportation/transit to support density through public policy that mandates those same individuals to sacrifice their land, the quality of their environment (*e.g.*, air, land, water, noise pollution), and their right to the quiet enjoyment of their property;
- **public education** that empowers by providing every high school graduate with a sound knowledge base for making life decisions, a “marketable” skill set, and an understanding of their unique abilities that will allow them to become productive citizens;
- **social programs** that ensure that every resident has his/her basic needs met related to nutritious food, safe shelter, reliable transportation, inclusive healthcare, and access to communication;



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- **health and wellness** that is preventive – not emergency – in nature, and includes services related to mental and physical (*i.e.*, medical, dental) health;
- **economic opportunity** that addresses the needs of small businesses and does not overreach with regulations; and
- **law enforcement** that is fair and de-escalating in nature.