



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: County Executive Montgomery County

Candidate's Name: Andrew Friedson

Current Occupation: County Councilmember

Party: Democratic Party

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

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<https://andrewfriedson.com/>

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

My approach to governance is built on a "no surprises" policy and early, frequent communication. As County Executive, I will utilize the Office of Community Partnerships to create a direct line of communication with Caribbean-American community leaders, ensuring you always have a seat at the table during the planning stages of major initiatives—not just after decisions are made. I will maintain a regular schedule of town halls, events, and meetings, ensuring a regular and consistent presence in areas with high concentrations of Caribbean-American residents to hear concerns directly and ensure our government remains accessible and responsive to every neighborhood.

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?

We must meet people where they are by removing unnecessary red tape and language barriers. I will focus on expanding health care access, building on our community hubs, targeted and intentional efforts like the African American Health Program and Black Physicians Network, and my work to establish the first mobile clinic for immigrant children and families. I will



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also scale proven affordable housing strategies by expanding the Housing Production Fund and Nonprofit Preservation Fund I spearheaded to create and protect the housing that working families need. Additionally, I will ensure that recent measures I've sponsored to protect our immigrant community like TRUST Act and Values Act are strictly followed so that no resident fears interacting with the county to receive services.

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

Equity means ensuring every student and resident has the specific supports necessary to reach their potential. I will mandate bias-incident and cultural competency training across all county agencies to ensure staff can provide respectful and effective care. I will also prioritize hiring a county workforce that reflects our community and ensure that public communications and service navigators are available in the primary languages spoken by our Caribbean-American neighbors.

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 healthy private sector is the only sustainable way to fund the services our residents deserve. I will expand the New J.O.B.S. Initiative to provide targeted incentives for historically underrepresented entrepreneurs, ensuring that we grow our economy inclusively and intentionally. I will also work at the speed of business to ensure BIPOC-owned firms have the tools to win county contracts. To reduce costs, I will implement pre-approved design templates that make it faster and cheaper for small businesses to open or renovate locations.

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

As a product of our public schools, I believe education is the linchpin of our community. I will expand the community school model, which co-locates



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health, mental health, and food assistance directly within school buildings. I will ensure the county prioritizes funding for bilingual parent coordinators and resource navigators to help families navigate the system. I will also make sure our schools remain safe zones where information is never voluntarily shared with federal immigration agencies.

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

My administration will move away from unpredictable crisis funding toward a sustainable fee for service model for our nonprofit partners. This allows organizations to focus on long-term wellness impacts rather than short-term financial survival. I will also use the platform of the executive office to destigmatize mental health care and work directly with cultural and faith-based organizations to deliver wellness programs in settings that residents trust.

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?

Public safety requires trust and the knowledge that the law is applied fairly. I will support community-oriented policing that focuses on street outreach and mobile crisis response teams. I will also strengthen the Office of the Inspector General to provide rigorous oversight and ensure accountability. Finally, I will maintain strict non-cooperation policies that prohibit our local law enforcement from carrying out federal immigration enforcement.

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

I will champion an agenda of affordability, accessibility, and accountability. This includes the Founders Equity Fund, a key part of my New J.O.B.S. Initiative, which provides capital to underrepresented business owners as well as workforce housing initiatives to ensure those who serve our county



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can afford to live here. I will also build on my leadership in passing the county's first paid parental leave law to support all working families during their most critical moments. In just 3 and half years since passing it, more than 1,100 of our county employees – the plurality of whom are women of color – have benefited from it.