



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: Prince George's County Council, District 5
Candidate's Name: Shayla Adams-Stafford
Current Occupation: County Councilmember, District 5 and Business Owner
Party: Democrat
Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website):
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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?

As a County Councilmember, I take a proactive and relationship-centered approach to engaging Caribbean-American constituents, leaders, and organizations. I regularly seek out and partner with minority-led and Caribbean-rooted organizations, ensuring they have a seat at the table in policy conversations and community initiatives. As a woman of Jamaican descent, I bring both cultural understanding and personal commitment to uplifting Caribbean voices through sustained collaboration with community-based organizations, faith institutions, and small businesses.

My engagement strategy goes beyond visibility, it's about consistency and trust-building. I have attended and will host community forums, cultural events, and roundtables to maintain open lines of communication and ensure constituents feel heard and represented. For example, during the federal government shutdown at the end of 2026, I intentionally connected with furloughed workers, particularly Black women, to provide support, resources, and pathways to private-sector opportunities to maintain economic stability. I will continue to build systems of engagement that are accessible, responsive, and reflective of the Caribbean-American community's needs and contributions.

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?



Anguilla * Antigua and Barbuda * Aruba * The Bahamas * Barbados * Belize * Bonaire * British Virgin Islands * Cayman Islands * Cuba * Curacao * Dominica * Dominican Republic * Grenada * Guadeloupe * Guyana * Haiti * Jamaica * Martinique * Montserrat * Netherlands Antilles * Puerto Rico * Saba * St. Barthelemy * St. Kitts and Nevis * St. Lucia * Saint-Martin * St. Vincent and the Grenadines * Sint Eustatius * Sint Maarten * Suriname * Trinidad and Tobago * Turks and Caicos * U.S. Virgin Islands



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My office is committed to reducing systemic barriers that Caribbean immigrants and other underserved residents face when accessing essential public services. Through my District 5 Healthy Hub initiative, we provide free monthly healthcare services, helping to close gaps in access for uninsured and underinsured residents. If re-elected, I will expand this initiative to include more culturally competent providers, preventative care services, and health education tailored to immigrant communities.

Beyond healthcare, I recognize that barriers also exist in housing, education, and social services. I will continue advocating for equitable housing policies that increase access to safe, affordable housing, while strengthening partnerships with community organizations that assist residents in navigating eligibility requirements and application processes. My office will also prioritize language accessibility, outreach, and casework support to ensure Caribbean immigrants can fully access the programs and resources available to them without unnecessary obstacles.

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

Ensuring culturally responsive services requires both policy leadership and accountability. I have championed legislation mandating the teaching of African American history across Prince George's County Public Schools, and I strongly believe this framework must also intentionally include Caribbean history and the broader African diaspora. Representation in education is critical to fostering understanding, respect, and inclusion across generations.

In addition to education, I will work with county agencies, including health, human services, and law enforcement, to promote cultural competency training and community-informed practices. This includes supporting recruitment of diverse staff, partnering with Caribbean community leaders to inform service delivery, and establishing feedback mechanisms so residents can share their experiences. My goal is to ensure that every agency interaction reflects dignity, cultural awareness, and responsiveness to the unique needs of Caribbean-American residents.

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 and workers are vital to our local economy, and I am committed to advancing policies that support their growth and sustainability. I am currently introducing legislation to support veteran-owned businesses, and I will ensure



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Caribbean-American veterans are intentionally included in outreach, technical assistance, and funding opportunities. With approximately 23,000 Caribbean-American veterans in Prince George's County, there is significant opportunity to uplift those who have transitioned into entrepreneurship.

More broadly, I will advocate for expanded access to capital, business development resources, and procurement opportunities for minority-owned businesses, including those in industries where Caribbean-Americans are highly represented. I will also support workforce development initiatives that create pathways to stable, well-paying jobs and entrepreneurship. By strengthening partnerships with chambers of commerce, local business associations, and community-based organizations, my office will help ensure Caribbean-American business owners and workers have the tools, networks, and support needed to thrive.

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

I strongly support efforts to make our school system more accessible and responsive to Caribbean-American students and families, particularly those navigating language barriers. I am encouraged by the Superintendent's implementation of AI-driven tools like Pocketalk, which can help bridge communication gaps between educators, parents, and students in real time. Tools like these are critical in ensuring that non-native English-speaking families can fully engage in their child's education and advocate for their needs.

Beyond technology, I believe we must take a holistic approach to family engagement. I will advocate for expanded language access services, including translated materials, multilingual staff, and culturally competent family liaisons within schools. Additionally, I will work to strengthen partnerships between schools and trusted community-based and Caribbean organizations to help parents better understand school systems, expectations, and available resources. When families feel informed and empowered, students are better positioned to succeed.

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

Advancing health equity for Caribbean-American residents requires intentional collaboration with trusted community organizations. I will work to deepen partnerships with Caribbean-led and culturally grounded organizations, faith institutions, and local



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leaders to co-create and promote wellness initiatives that reflect the community's needs and values.

Building on efforts like my District 5 Healthy Hub, I will support programming that addresses mental health, chronic disease prevention, and overall wellness through culturally responsive outreach and education. This includes expanding access to screenings, nutrition education, and mental health services, while reducing stigma through community-centered conversations. By investing in partnerships and meeting people where they are, in churches, community centers, and cultural spaces, we can improve health outcomes and ensure services are both accessible and effective.

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?

A core responsibility of the County Council is to provide strong, consistent oversight of county agencies, including law enforcement, and I take that responsibility seriously. Building trust with Caribbean-American residents requires transparency, accountability, and ongoing engagement, not just in moments of crisis, but as a sustained practice.

I will work to ensure that law enforcement agencies are held accountable through regular oversight hearings, data transparency, and community-informed policy decisions. I also support strengthening community policing efforts and creating more structured opportunities for Caribbean-American residents to share concerns and experiences directly with public safety leaders. Protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of all residents means ensuring that our systems operate fairly and that community voices are actively shaping how public safety is delivered.

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 and funding opportunities that create tangible improvements for Caribbean-American communities across District 5 and Prince George's County. This includes advocating for equitable access to county grants, small business support programs, and workforce development initiatives that reflect the industries and entrepreneurial strengths within the Caribbean community.

I will also prioritize investments in health access, youth development, and housing stability, key areas that directly impact long-term outcomes. Through initiatives like the District 5 Healthy Hub, District 5 Futures, District 5 Career Pathways programs and future programming expansions, I will continue to connect residents to critical services while working at the policy level to address systemic disparities. Additionally, I will



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ensure that Caribbean-American organizations are not only included but prioritized in outreach for funding and partnership opportunities, so they have the resources needed to serve and uplift their communities effectively.