



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: Councilmanic

Candidate's Name: Bertrand Tessa

Current Occupation: Diplomat

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): 10903 Meridian Hill Way, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772; 202-440-8258; bertrand.tessa2@gmail.com

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

I would engage proactively and consistently with culturally diverse communities, and more specifically Caribbean American across Prince George's County by building ongoing, trust-based relationships with local leaders, civic groups, cultural organizations, and neighborhood associations. By attending community events, hosting regular listening sessions, and collaborating with county-based cultural centers and diaspora groups, I would ensure that residents' priorities guide my work. I would also maintain open communication through meetings, newsletters, and partnerships with grassroots organizations. This approach supports meaningful dialogue, celebrates cultural contributions, and ensures every community has consistent access to resources and representation.

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?

My office would work to reduce barriers immigrant communities face in accessing healthcare, housing, education, and social programs by expanding culturally aware outreach, offering multilingual information, and partnering with trusted community organizations. We would streamline referrals, host resource clinics, and collaborate with service agencies to ensure programs are easier to navigate. By engaging community leaders, conducting listening sessions, and monitoring service gaps, we would identify systemic challenges and advocate for more equitable access. Strengthening partnerships across



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nonprofit, county, and faith-based networks would help ensure all residents receive clear guidance, support, and pathways to essential services.

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 begins with meaningful collaboration across agencies and community partners. My office would promote staff training in cultural awareness, strengthen partnerships with local cultural organizations, and support multilingual communication in public-facing services. We would convene cross-agency working groups to identify service gaps, share best practices, and coordinate outreach strategies. Regular listening sessions with diverse community leaders would guide policy improvements. By integrating community feedback, improving transparency, and encouraging inclusive practices in health, education, and public safety agencies, we can help ensure that all residents receive respectful, relevant, and accessible services.

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?

I would support initiatives that strengthen small businesses and workers that benefit Caribbean-American by expanding access to technical assistance, capital, and training. Partnerships with local chambers, cultural associations, and workforce programs would help deliver multilingual business resources, licensing guidance, and mentorship. I would advocate for streamlined permitting, equitable procurement opportunities, and small-business-friendly grant programs. Promoting workforce development in key industries—such as hospitality, transportation, home care, and retail—would help workers gain new skills and career pathways. By improving outreach and strengthening collaboration with community organizations, we can ensure all entrepreneurs and workers have the tools to succeed.

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

I would support Caribbean-American students and families by strengthening language assistance, improving outreach, and ensuring clear navigation of the school system. This includes expanding access to multilingual interpreters, culturally aware family liaisons, and easy-to-understand



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guidance on enrollment, special education, and academic programs. I would collaborate with community organizations, parent groups, and cultural centers to provide workshops on school resources, college readiness, and career pathways. By fostering inclusive communication, supporting culturally relevant programming, and ensuring schools partner actively with families, we can help all students thrive and feel fully supported throughout their education.

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

I would strengthen partnerships with Caribbean-American community organizations to promote mental health, chronic disease prevention, and wellness by collaborating on outreach, education, and resource-sharing initiatives. This includes working with trusted local groups to co-host health workshops, support culturally informed wellness programs, and expand access to screenings and preventive services. I would encourage agencies to use culturally relevant materials, multilingual communication, and community ambassadors to improve engagement. By convening health providers, nonprofits, and cultural organizations, my office would help coordinate efforts, reduce stigma around mental health, and improve access to reliable, community-centered wellness resources for all residents.

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?

Building trust and ensuring accountable public safety requires strong oversight, open communication, and collaboration with Caribbean-American residents and communities. My office would promote regular community-law enforcement dialogues, support bias-awareness and cultural-responsiveness training, and encourage transparent reporting on police practices. I would convene advisory groups representing diverse residents to identify concerns, recommend improvements, and monitor progress. Strengthening oversight bodies, reviewing data on stops and use-of-force, and expanding non-police crisis response options would also improve accountability. By fostering honest partnership and consistent engagement, we can ensure residents' rights, safety, and dignity are protected across all neighborhoods.

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



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I would champion programs and funding opportunities that strengthen outcomes for Caribbean-American communities by expanding access to education, workforce training, small-business support, and community-based health initiatives. This includes advocating for grants that bolster local nonprofits, cultural institutions, and community centers delivering essential services. I would promote equitable access to housing assistance, entrepreneurship resources, and career-development programs across key industries. Supporting culturally informed health and wellness initiatives, mental-health outreach, and prevention programs would also be a priority. By fostering partnerships across county agencies, nonprofits, and cultural organizations, we can improve opportunities and ensure all residents thrive.