



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: MD Delegate, D-19

Candidate's Name: Christa Tichy

Current Occupation: Master Electrician & Business Owner

Party: Democrat

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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?

District 19 is one of the most diverse communities in Maryland, and our policies need to reflect that. I will begin by meeting with members of the Caribbean American Advisory Group within Montgomery County's Office of Community Partnerships and listening to their priorities. From there, I will follow their lead—building relationships not just with leadership, but by engaging Caribbean-American residents where they live, work, and gather in our community.

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?

I support proven and effective integration strategies that invest in language access, workforce opportunity, education, and trust in public institutions — allowing immigrants to participate fully in community life regardless of status. Maryland already promotes immigrant integration through ESOL programs, workforce pathways like EARN Maryland, language access in public services, legal support clinics, and anti-discrimination enforcement. I will always vote to keep these programs, or the grants that support them, fully funded.

All families deserve the opportunity to succeed and to feel safe, respected, and welcomed in the place they call home. In Annapolis, I will focus on



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expanding economic opportunity through strong public education funding and workforce training, increasing the supply of housing working families can afford, and improving public transportation that so many of our residents rely on to manage daily life.

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

The Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs serves as the central hub for engagement with immigrant communities and new Americans, but real responsiveness happens at the departmental and agency level. The Maryland Language Advisory Group, created through 2025 legislation with oversight by the OIA, is an important step toward strengthening and standardizing language access across state government.

It will help ensure Maryland's protections are preserved and consistently implemented—particularly for Haitian Creole and Spanish-speaking residents who may need language support to access jobs, education, healthcare, and legal services.

The Advisory Group's first report, expected later this year, should provide a blueprint for improving services across agencies. As a Delegate, I will work to ensure the OIA is fulfilling its mission and that agencies are held accountable for implementing the Advisory Group's recommendations.

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 believe entrepreneurship should be obtainable for anyone willing to work hard enough. Programs that assist in access to capital, targeted tax incentives, streamlined regulation and permitting are all ways we can help lift up small business throughout our State. Large corporations take advantage of these types of incentives all the time because the systems are in place. We need to incentivize and lift up small business as well. Above all, state taxes should never disproportionately affect small business.

Additionally, we should be investing in real workforce pipelines—expanding career and technical education, strengthening apprenticeships, and building clearer pathways into high-demand fields like healthcare, education and the skilled trades. At the same time, we have too many people—especially



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immigrants—who are trained and ready to work but get stuck navigating licensing and credentialing barriers. We need to fix that so people can actually work in the fields they're qualified for.

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

Among my top priorities is ensuring Maryland's Blueprint is protected from ongoing budget pressures and remains fully funded. In particular, the Workgroup on Multilingual Learners in Public Schools has helped establish a strong multilingual learner and family engagement framework based on national best practices.

Much of that work is embedded in the Blueprint's community schools model, which provides dedicated coordinators and wraparound services to support students and families. The Accountability and Implementation Board is responsible for oversight, but the legislature's role is to make sure this work is actually happening on the ground.

As a Delegate from District 19, I will use every tool available—through the budget process, oversight, and direct engagement with local school systems—to ensure these supports are implemented consistently and are reaching the communities they are intended to serve.

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

MD Department of Health programs like community health worker initiatives, chronic disease prevention efforts, and behavioral health services are critical, but most effective when delivered through local partners. My job as a legislator will be to bridge these state programs with non-profits like the Caribbean Help Center. My focus will be ensuring these programs are well-funded, accessible and responsive so they actually reach residents where they live.

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?



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In Montgomery County, police officers engage with diverse communities through programs like the Community Engagement Officer program, which places officers directly in schools and neighborhoods, and the Crisis Response Team, which focuses on de-escalation and behavioral health situations. MCPD also operates community policing units, liaison programs that engage immigrant communities, and training initiatives like the Community-Informed Policing Program developed with Montgomery College.

As a Delegate, I will meet with police leadership and tour with officers on the ground to see these efforts in action. I will also regularly meet with community leaders to get their perspective on how these programs are being implemented. I want to make sure that they are building real trust, not just meeting program requirements.

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

I touch on this in my answers to questions four and six, but Maryland has strong programs to support both small businesses and community-based services. My job as delegate will be to make sure they're accessible and actually reaching people in the Caribbean-American community.

On the business side, that means programs like Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, Neighborhood BusinessWorks, Business Boost, and TEDCO help provide capital and early-stage support through local partners like the Montgomery County Business Center, the Maryland Women's Business Center, and the SCORE Mentoring Program in MoCo, which help entrepreneurs navigate financing and grow.

On the social services side, much of that funding comes from the Maryland Department of Health and the Community Health Resources Commission which work with community-based organizations to deliver culturally competent care, chronic disease prevention, and behavioral health support. In District 19, that often happens through trusted organizations like Caribbean Help Center, Primary Care Coalition, and Mobile Medical Care Inc.

As a Delegate, I will focus on connecting these resources to trusted community partners and making sure they are coordinated, accessible, and delivering real results on the ground.



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