

## Latino Democratic Club Questionnaire

The Latino Democratic Club of Montgomery County congratulates you on your decision to run for elective office. As community activists, we are interested in hearing from you about your plans to serve in the position you are currently seeking. We have compiled a questionnaire, which is attached. We originally asked opposed candidates to respond to the questions in Spanish as well as English, so as to make their responses accessible to members of the community. Because we are asking that you return this questionnaire next week, you should not feel obligated to answer the questions in Spanish, although we would appreciate your effort to do so.

*Thank you for your interest in completing this questionnaire. Please respond to each question in 150 words or fewer, except for the last question where you have the option to attach additional information you may want to relay. Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website. Since we will share your responses on our website, we ask that you fill out the questionnaire in English and Spanish, to make it accessible to all those in our community. Please submit your answers by 11:59pm on April 23, 2018 to [comms@LatinoMontgomeryDems.Org](mailto:comms@LatinoMontgomeryDems.Org)*

I will try to get my answers translated by the deadline. Thank you for the opportunity to complete the questionnaire.

### **Alan Bowser for Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court**

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Alan S. Bowser

Campaign contact info: [alanbowserforclerk@gmail.com](mailto:alanbowserforclerk@gmail.com)

<https://twitter.com/4CountyClerk>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofalanbowser/>

Website: [www.AlanBowser.net](http://www.AlanBowser.net)

Are you now or have you ever been a member of LDC? I am now a member of the Latino Democratic Club of Montgomery County. I was a member of the Hispanic Democratic Club of Montgomery County.

Have you ever sought LDC's endorsement? I was endorsed for Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court by the Hispanic Democratic Club of Montgomery County in 2014.

1. What do you think are the top 3 priorities/issues of the Latino community in Montgomery County, and why?

Jobs & Economic Development. Montgomery County needs to adopt new policies that will improve its support of existing small businesses in the County and to help to attract new businesses to create new jobs. Increasing Latino employment and wages will greatly help families to have better housing, better health care, better nutrition, and a better quality of life.

Education. The reality of public education in Montgomery County is that there is inequality in the school system, especially between schools in the eastern and western parts of the County. We must address the allocation of resources to underserved schools, class size, ESOL, the achievement gap, facility issues, and school construction and renovation issues.

Criminal Justice. Latinos and other people of color are greatly impacted by the criminal justice system. As Clerk of the Circuit Court, I will advocate for changes in the criminal justice system that will help Montgomery County families by reducing the incidence of incarceration and supporting alternative sentencing methods.

2. Yes or no, do you believe it is important to support Latino candidates? Yes. Absolutely.

3. What steps will you take to engage with residents with limited English proficiency?

As Clerk of the Court, I will work to ensure that:

- there are sufficient Spanish language interpreters available for assistance inside and outside the Circuit Courtrooms.
- there are appropriate foreign language resources in the Office of the Clerk.
- the Office of the Clerk of the Court extends its educational outreach to communities of color, and, specifically, to communities where English is not their primary language.
- as many as possible official documents are translated into foreign languages, both hard copy and online.

4. You have the option to include any other proposals/initiatives you have worked on or will be championing during your term.

I have extensive involvement with the Latino community in Montgomery County and strongly promote programs that support the Latino community, including:

- I have been endorsed by CASA in Action in 2018 for election as Clerk of the Circuit Court.
- I have strongly supported Latino candidates for office in Montgomery County, including these 2018 candidates: Nancy Navarro, Ana Sol Gutierrez, Gabe Albornoz, Grace Rivera-Oven, Loretta Sanchez, Darwin Romero, Gabriel Acevero, Judy Docca, and Karla Silvestre. I am honored to have their support for our campaign for Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.
- I am working with CASA de Maryland and many other organizations on a Montgomery County TRUST Act, setting out limits for MCPD cooperation with Federal immigration enforcement officials.
- I am Treasurer and Board member of the non-profit **After School Dance Program, Inc.** which establishes Latin dance programs and cultural understanding in Montgomery County High Schools. We produce the popular Annual MCPS Latin Dance Competition at Strathmore.
- As President of the **Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.**, I recruited Latinos to the Board of Directors, and created culturally relevant programming and did considerable outreach to the Latino community.
- As President of **Safe Silver Spring, Inc.** we have reached out to the Latino community--and Casa de Maryland, in particular--to

advocate for community friendly policies by the M.C. Police Department and the State's Attorney.

- I have recruited Latinos to join the Safe Silver Spring Board of Directors, notably Renato Mendoza, formerly with CASA, now with Identity.
- As a member of the Board of **Conservation Montgomery**, I recruited a Pablo Blank of CASA to join our Board and to help our environmental education outreach to the Spanish speaking community. I spearheaded the effort to create a Spanish-language webpage for this environmental non-profit.
- As **Chief of Staff to Montgomery County Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg**, I instituted the first Spanish language blog for Montgomery County residents.
- As Chief of Staff to Montgomery County Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg, I hired a Latino staff member for outreach to the Latino community.
- As Chief of Staff to Montgomery County Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg, I gave emphasis to Trachtenberg's relationship with the **County Executive's Latino Advisory Group**.
- As Chair of the Neighborhoods Committee of the **Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board**, I ensured that Latinos participated in our committee work and were welcome to our meetings.
- As a member of the Steering Committee of the **Northwest Branch Weed & Seed Program**, I devoted considerable time and energies in support of students, parents and neighbors of the Broad Acres Elementary School and St. Camillus Church.
- I have supported programs of the County's **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**.
- I support Latino small businesses.