

Latino Democratic Club Questionnaire

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 May 23, 2018 to comms@LatinoMontgomeryDems.Org.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: **Barbara H. Meiklejohn**

Campaign contact info: Phone number 301-580-2634
email: barbameiklejohnforclerk@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/barbameiklejohnforclerk>

Are you now or have you ever been a member of LDC? No

Have you ever sought LDC's endorsement? Yes, in 2014

1. What do you think are the top 3 priorities/issues of the Latino community in Montgomery County, and why?
 - a. Public safety: Deportation is a very real fear for a lot of the Latino community.
 - b. Education: There is an education gap for our non-English speaking students, and we need to ensure we have adequate programs in place to bridge this gap.
 - c. Health care: I believe this goes hand in hand with our education gap. Much of our Latino community does not have access to many of the county healthcare resources. We need to do a better job of providing community outreach and education in the Latino community.
2. Yes or no, do you believe it is important to support Latino candidates?

Yes, I believe it is very important to support our Latino candidates. Electing qualified Latino candidates would be a tremendously valuable resource to the Latino community, ensuring that disparities are addressed and resolutions can be developed.

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

In the Courthouse, we currently have six on-staff Spanish interpreters. We provide a language line at our office windows, and we also have staff members that speak Spanish to help our customers. I will continue to ensure that the courthouse staff represent the diversity of Montgomery County and are readily able to assist any resident in need.

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

Since elected Clerk in 2014, I have increased community engagement through and within the courthouse. Since 2017, I have partnered with Project Search, a county-run program that prepares disabled youth for success in the workforce. We have already had two interns graduate from Project Search, and we are currently looking to sponsor an intern for this semester. I have also created an intern program that allows high school and college students to work within the judiciary. This helps to increase their knowledge of the criminal justice system and creates the opportunity to make the judiciary their chosen career. In 2017, I received a certificate from The Honorable Isiah Leggett for my “outstanding contributions in developing the next generation of leaders through my internship programs.” I also received a Public Service Award in 2017 from the President of the Korean American Association of Montgomery County in recognition of my contributions to an internship program to nurture and develop the next generation of leaders.

Since being elected Clerk, I have created a more proactive approach in community education and recruitment, ensuring that the residents of Montgomery County understand the operations and functions of the Circuit Court as well as the career opportunities within the courthouse. My HR staff have attended job fairs in Rockville, Germantown, and Takoma Park. We have arranged for groups, such as the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism, to visit with the multiple departments in the courthouse and observe the day to day operations. Part of this program also includes meeting with one of our judges for a question and answer session. I have and would continue to educate and assist community-based organizations. For example, recently, an expungement workshop was held in Silver Spring, and I provided the organizer with links to Maryland websites that gave instructions, forms, and a help number to call with legal questions. Having access to and knowledge of the opportunities and offerings within the court system will not only help the Latino community, but other minority communities as well.

I am also continuing to prepare court staff for the implementation of Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC). MDEC is a new statewide computer system that has currently been implemented in about 80% of Maryland counties. Implementation for Montgomery County is scheduled for November 2019. Court staff will need to be prepared to handle court filings in a completely different manner than in the past. The training process has already started and will be a top priority, so that the impact on Montgomery County residents and attorneys will be minimal. I am also working with Montgomery County and the AOC to implement E-recording in the Circuit Court Land Records Department.

Lastly, I am a member of the Circuit Court’s interpreter workgroup. We are looking at all of the available technology for interpreting in the courthouse to ensure that we are readily able to assist all residents of Montgomery County effectively.