



Latino Democratic Club 2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Campaign Profile:

Please attach a brief personal bio with your submission*

Candidate Name: Shebra L Evans

Office You Are Seeking: Board of Education – District 4

Candidate Contact Email: engageeducateexcel@gmail.com

Candidate Contact Number: 240-472-4554

Campaign Website and Social Media Handles (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram):

voteshebraevans.com

[@shebraevans](#)

Amount Raised (include as of date): \$4,370+ not including pledged amounts

Cash on Hand: \$3,700+

Other Endorsements: local and state elected officials and leaders.

Questionnaire:

Below is a candidate questionnaire produced by the Latino Democratic Club (LDC) of Montgomery County. The LDC will distribute the questionnaire to candidates for office in the 2024 Democratic primary in Montgomery County for the 2024 early vote. Please submit your responses by April 5th, 2024, to ldcendorsements@gmail.com. **Please limit your response to each question to 200 words or less. Your response will be shared on our website unless you explicitly opt-out;** therefore, we encourage you to submit your responses in English and Spanish to make them accessible to all members of our community.

1. Latinx Engagement

Please provide details of your prior involvement or work with the Latinx/Hispanic community in Maryland.

My lived experience in the Aspen Hill/Glenmont area for the past 23 years and through the lens of being a board member have allowed me to support budgets that included support for the Latinx/Hispanic community. The National School Board Association (NSBA) awarded MCPS the 2020 Magna Award for innovation in education for the Equity Accountability Model. As president on the board, I was proud of the work being done to disaggregate the data and unmask the disparities that existed for Black/African American; Latin/Hispanic students impacted by poverty and all other students impacted by poverty having varying performance, depending on the school. Gaps in education come into sharper focus through the model. My previous positions at the local and county level in PTA further allowed me to spend time learning the needs of the community and better understanding the workings of our large and diverse school system and district. In the past, I have been endorsed by Casa In Action, The Clubs of Color and a variety of other organizations reinforcing the depth of my community support and reflecting the diversity of the constituents that believe in my leadership and the work I do on behalf of the children and families in Montgomery County.

Mi experiencia vivida en el área de Aspen Hill/Glenmont durante los últimos 23 años y a través de la perspectiva de ser miembro de la junta me han permitido apoyar presupuestos que incluían apoyo a la comunidad latina/hispana. La Asociación Nacional de Juntas Escolares (NSBA) otorgó a MCPS el Premio Magna 2020 a la innovación en educación por el Modelo de Responsabilidad Equitativa. Como presidente de la junta, estaba orgulloso del trabajo que se estaba realizando para desglosar los datos y desenmascarar las disparidades que existían entre los negros y los afroamericanos; Los estudiantes latinos/hispanos afectados por la pobreza y todos los demás estudiantes afectados por la pobreza tienen un rendimiento variable, según la escuela. Las brechas en la educación se vuelven más visibles a través del modelo. Mis puestos anteriores a nivel local y del condado en la PTA me permitieron además dedicar tiempo a aprender las necesidades de la comunidad y comprender mejor el funcionamiento de nuestro amplio y diverso sistema escolar y distrito. En el pasado, he recibido el respaldo de Casa In Action, The Clubs of Color y una variedad de otras organizaciones que refuerzan la profundidad de mi apoyo comunitario y reflejan la diversidad de los electores que creen en mi liderazgo y el trabajo que hago en nombre de los niños y las familias del condado de Montgomery.

2. Housing

- a. According to a study done by Montgomery County planning, those who identify as Hispanic/Latinx are more likely to pay more than 30% of their income on housing than residents of the County overall. This is most pronounced for Hispanic and Latinx renters, among whom 62% are burdened by housing costs. What would be your solution for affordable and quality housing?

Montgomery County is always trying to provide for or address the most pressing needs of its residents. Housing being at the top of the list. An example, is the decision at the county level on rent stabilization. The hope is it will positively impact student mobility rates.

El condado de Montgomery siempre está tratando de satisfacer o abordar las necesidades más urgentes de sus residentes. La vivienda encabeza la lista. Un ejemplo es la decisión a nivel de condado sobre la estabilización de los alquileres. La esperanza es que tenga un impacto positivo en las tasas de movilidad estudiantil.

3. Mental Health and health

- a. How would you approach the need to both increase access to mental health services among Latino residents and address the shortage of linguistically and culturally competent mental health care professionals? Especially among Latino youth?

In the question regarding fentanyl, I referenced MCPS hosting community forums that shared ways to support students and share information about programs in schools and available to county residents. One of my priorities is the continued recruitment of a diverse workforce and it includes having pathways for students as our future workforce. I have supported the budget including more bilingual counselors. In addition, we have added more school psychologists and social workers.

En la pregunta sobre el fentanilo, hice referencia a MCPS que organiza foros comunitarios que comparten formas de apoyar a los estudiantes y compartir información sobre programas en las escuelas y disponibles para los residentes del condado. Una de mis prioridades es la contratación continua de una fuerza laboral diversa e incluye tener caminos para los estudiantes como nuestra futura fuerza laboral. He apoyado el presupuesto incluyendo más consejeros bilingües. Además, hemos agregado más psicólogos escolares y trabajadores sociales.

4. Fentanyl

- a. The fentanyl crisis has been devastating our community. In Montgomery County, we have seen it disproportionately affect our Latinx/Hispanic youth. How do you recommend that we address this issue?

This is a national public health crisis and requires an all hands on deck approach. The Board approved and supported county-wide family forums to address the crisis faced by students both in school and out in the community. In collaboration with a variety of external partners, families received ways to connect students to supports and programs. Training was offered on how to administer Narcan to someone experiencing an overdose. Our school system is fortunate to have hired a medical officer. Dr. Kapunan provides regular updates informing students, staff and families on understanding and awareness around the health and well-being of our students.

Esta es una crisis de salud pública nacional y requiere un enfoque de todas las manos. La Junta aprobó y apoyó foros familiares en todo el condado para abordar la crisis que enfrentan los estudiantes tanto en la escuela como en la comunidad. En colaboración con una variedad de socios externos, las familias recibieron formas de conectar a los estudiantes con apoyos y programas. Se ofreció capacitación sobre cómo administrar Narcan a alguien que sufriera una sobredosis. Nuestro sistema escolar tiene la suerte de haber contratado a un médico. El Dr. Kapunan proporciona actualizaciones periódicas para informar a los estudiantes, el personal y las familias sobre la comprensión y la conciencia sobre la salud y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes.

5. Education

- a. Hispanic/Latinx students are the fastest-growing ethnic group in MCPS, with 34% of the student population. The graduation gap of Latinx students has been exacerbated since the COVID-19 pandemic. How would you address the truancy rate in the Latino community and close achievement gaps?

Students are faced with increased challenges both in and out of school and it results in them feeling more disconnected from their peers and school community. The board and school system is trying to address the many issues in collaboration with community partners. We hope in providing students with the tools and strategies the challenges become less difficult. During and after the pandemic, the board made investments in counseling and mental health services to help our students. Schools created Well-Being Teams that consisted of the administrators, pupil personnel workers, school counselors, school psychologist, ESOL transition counselor and any supportive staff member with a connection to a student. It was an opportunity to collaboratively solve or provide a need to the student or their family. The idea was spurred on by the pandemic and in wanting to connect to students that were disconnected during COVID. It was such a benefit to schools that we continued using the approach to assist in strategies that helped meet the needs of students.

Los estudiantes enfrentan mayores desafíos tanto dentro como fuera de la escuela y esto hace que se sientan más desconectados de sus compañeros y de la comunidad escolar. La junta y el sistema escolar están tratando de abordar muchos problemas en colaboración con socios comunitarios. Esperamos que al brindarles a los estudiantes las herramientas y estrategias, los desafíos se vuelvan menos difíciles. Durante y después de la pandemia, la junta invirtió en asesoramiento y servicios de salud mental para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes. Las escuelas crearon Equipos de Bienestar que estaban formados por administradores, trabajadores del personal estudiantil, consejeros escolares, psicólogos escolares, consejeros de transición de ESOL y cualquier miembro del personal de apoyo con una conexión con un estudiante. Fue una oportunidad para resolver o brindar de manera colaborativa una necesidad al estudiante o su familia. La idea fue impulsada por la pandemia y por querer conectarse con los estudiantes que estuvieron desconectados durante el COVID. Fue tal el beneficio para las escuelas que continuamos usando el enfoque para ayudar en estrategias que ayudaron a satisfacer las necesidades de los estudiantes.

6. Crime

- a. Studies show that crime is one of the most pressing issues for Latinx /Hispanic voters. How will you work to both improve public safety, as crime is rising in our communities, and make the criminal justice system in Montgomery County more equitable?

The School Resource Officers were removed from schools. Community Engagement Officers are working with school principals, security team leads to work to build community, understand what it means to be culturally responsive, know what a trauma-informed response looks like, learn our code of conduct and restorative practices and more. The goal is to work together with schools, students, families and staff to understand and know what a safe school environment looks and feels like and provide it. The work continues in this area.

Los oficiales de recursos escolares fueron retirados de las escuelas. Los funcionarios de participación comunitaria están trabajando con los directores de las escuelas, el equipo de seguridad lidera el trabajo para construir una comunidad, comprender lo que significa ser culturalmente receptivo, saber cómo es una respuesta informada sobre el trauma, aprender nuestro código de conducta y prácticas restaurativas y más. El objetivo es trabajar junto con las escuelas, los estudiantes, las familias y el personal para comprender y saber cómo se ve y se siente un ambiente escolar seguro y brindarlo. El trabajo continúa en esta área.

7. Business and economic prosperity

- a. Small businesses are the engine of economic growth and are critical to the financial health of the Latinx/Hispanic community. What would you do to strengthen and create Latino-owned small businesses?

The Board is committed to working with more small business owners and directed the Office of Procurement to hold informational meetings to prospective contractors. The Department of Partnerships works closely with businesses to create an experience for rising juniors and seniors. Students need the hands on experience coupled with career and professional learning. It allows them to further enhance skills and gives the business an opportunity to develop future talent.

La Junta está comprometida a trabajar con más propietarios de pequeñas empresas y ordenó a la Oficina de Adquisiciones que celebre reuniones informativas para posibles contratistas. El Departamento de Asociaciones trabaja en estrecha colaboración con las empresas para crear una experiencia para los estudiantes de tercer y cuarto año en ascenso. Los estudiantes necesitan experiencia práctica junto con aprendizaje profesional y profesional. Les permite mejorar aún más sus habilidades y brinda a la empresa la oportunidad de desarrollar futuros talentos.

8. Immigration

- a. What programs or legislation do you think would best support our immigration residents who do not have access to federal funding in Montgomery County?

Our Linkages to Learning at the elementary and a few middle school(s) students and their families are receiving any and all services related to their social, health and economic needs. We wanted our students to be ready to learn and that requires the necessary supports for families prior to engaging in the learning. High schools have wellness centers or bridge to wellness programs. MCPS is good at trying to assist families with public and private agencies.

Nuestros vínculos con el aprendizaje en la escuela primaria y en algunas escuelas intermedias, los estudiantes y sus familias reciben todos y cada uno de los servicios relacionados con sus necesidades sociales, de salud y económicas. Queríamos que nuestros estudiantes estuvieran listos para aprender y eso requiere el apoyo necesario para las familias antes de participar en el aprendizaje. Las escuelas secundarias tienen centros de bienestar o programas puente hacia el bienestar. MCPS es bueno tratando de ayudar a las familias con agencias públicas y privadas.

9. Asylum

- a. Do you support a comprehensive immigration reform that better supports and protects those who have been displaced by war and seek asylum? If elected, what would your priorities be to change our current system?

Yes. As a current board member, we have an international admissions and enrollment office that welcomes student/families to our district.

Sí. Como miembro actual de la junta, tenemos una oficina de inscripción y admisiones internacionales que da la bienvenida a estudiantes y familias a nuestro distrito.