



LATINO DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Latino Democratic Club 2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Campaign Profile:

Please attach a brief personal bio with your submission*

Candidate Name: **Angela Alsobrooks**

Office You Are Seeking: **US Senate**

Candidate Contact Email: **Angela@angelaalsobrooks.com**

Candidate Contact Number: **(301) 337-0053**

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

**<https://www.facebook.com/TeamAlsobrooks>, <https://www.instagram.com/alsobrooksformd>,
<https://twitter.com/AlsobrooksForMD>**

Amount Raised (include as of date): **\$5,040,325 as of 12/31/23**

Cash on Hand: **\$3,128,047 as of 12/31/23**

Other Endorsements: **Governor Wes Moore, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Jamie Raskin, Congressman Glenn Ivey, Congressman Kwesis Mfume and over 150 elected officials, organizations and labor unions from across Maryland. Full list of endorsements here - <https://www.angelaalsobrooks.com/endorsements>**

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.

200 word limit on answers

1. Latinx Engagement

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

Throughout my career, I have fought alongside members of the Hispanic community in Maryland to work to provide safe communities and access to economic opportunity. As State's Attorney I was an early supporter of the Maryland Dream Act and pushed for legislation to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. As County Executive, I implemented fundamental changes in how the County interacts with federal immigration officials, ensuring that ICE was only notified when undocumented immigrants were arrested on violent charges. I also declined to enter into a 287(g) agreement with ICE.

I created the first ever Office of Multicultural Affairs to allow our government to better serve the Hispanic community, and created the first ever Latino Advisory Board to advise me on how best to serve the County's growing Hispanic population.

We have made huge strides in making the government more accessible. My administration created Conexiones Comunitarias de Prince George, a bi-weekly radio show that includes interviews with different County government agencies, public service announcements and other critical information to the County's Latino community. The segment plays a critical role in building stronger and sustainable partnerships on a trusted radio station known by the Latino community in the region.

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?

As County Executive, I have been deeply committed to making critical investments to preserve, protect and expand affordable housing opportunities for residents of Prince George's County. We directly preserved and created 3,301 affordable

housing units since 2020, and committed funding for an additional 2,066 affordable units. We launched the Right of First Refusal Program to help preserve 1,452 affordable housing units since 2021. We created the Right of First Refusal Loan Preservation Fund, immediately committing \$25 million to preserve affordable housing. We've broken ground on 6 new affordable housing projects, including in largely Hispanic communities like Hyattsville, Glenarden, Fairmount Heights and Glenn Dale, and have opened 3 new affordable housing projects throughout the County.

In the Senate, I would support efforts to provide increased federal resources to help support the sorts of affordable housing initiatives that I have championed at the local level. My on the ground experience, fighting for affordable housing for folks throughout Prince George's County will prove invaluable in addressing the issue at the federal level. The Senate sorely lacks people who understand the true impact of these sorts of investments, because far too many are too removed from the problem.

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?

I have taken steps to address the mental health crisis that our community has faced as County Executive, and have worked to ensure that treatment is provided in a culturally competent manner. I believe that access to mental health care is fundamental, which is why I built a state-of-the-art mental health care and addiction care facility in Lanham. As the mother of a teenage daughter, I understand the challenges that our young people face and will go to the Senate with the lived experience and perspective of having dealt with these issues as both a mom and as County Executive.

We need to support federal funding that provides resources for local jurisdictions to expand language access resources. Recognizing the diversity within the Latino community and offering services in multiple languages make it easier for Latino health care providers to access resources. Culturally sensitive approaches to healthcare improve the effectiveness of programmatic outcomes over all. In Prince George's County Government, the language access compliance program has helped several sectors of Government meet compliance standards.

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?

Everyone has the right to feel secure in their homes, every child and teacher should feel safe in their schools, and businesses should have confidence in locating to any community. During my time as State's Attorney, Prince George's County saw a 50% reduction in violent crime – an achievement I helped reach by focusing on

prosecuting violent criminals and allocating resources to keep those who pose the greatest threat to families off the streets. At the same time, I created a restorative justice program for first-time nonviolent felony drug offenders, to get them help, workforce development training and a job.

As County Executive, I've seen the impact that the opioid crisis (and drugs in general) have had on our communities and I have taken action, opening the first of its kind, state-of-the-art mental health care and addiction care facility in Lanham. This year, we're also opening a crisis stabilization center in the southern part of the county. We've conducted over 1,000 Naloxone trainings to help ensure that residents are able to take advantage of this life saving treatment. As a Senator, I would support efforts to provide Federal resources to local intervention and support programs.

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?

We have implemented several successful programs in Prince George's County to address truancy and achievement gaps in the Hispanic community. I have sought to empower leaders within the community to ensure that we are engaging in conversations in a culturally responsible manner. We've provided grants to leaders and programs like Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Maryland Latinos Unidos and Lupi Quinteros Grady's Latin American Youth Center and have also worked to provide increased resources to students and families by funding groups like Coaching Salud Holistica to work in some of the schools with the largest Hispanic populations.

We convened the inaugural Prince George's County Latino Education Summit, which has been crucial to engaging the community on issues that students and families face. All of this work has taught me that engagement is absolutely critical. The Federal government can do a lot to help provide funding for these types of programs, but it takes someone like myself who has deep rooted experience at the local level to understand the needs and the impact that these resources have. I'll work in the Senate to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide for Hispanic students in communities around the state.

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?

As a prosecutor, I had a firsthand view of the misery that exists within our criminal

justice system. It becomes the destination for individuals when society fails to invest in our communities.

We must keep families safe. As State's Attorney, we saw a 50% reduction in violent crime – achieved by focusing on prosecuting violent criminals and allocating resources to keep those who pose the greatest threat off the streets.

Feeling safe and secure also involves having trust in law enforcement. I made it a priority to hold officers accountable. We established a Police Reform Work Group and have implemented the overwhelming majority of recommendations made.

I believe in giving people a second chance. I started Back on Track-Prince George's to give first-time nonviolent felony drug offenders a second chance and a clean record. We also started the Returning Citizens Affairs Division to ensure a holistic approach for those transitioning back to the community.

In the Senate, I will fight to ensure funding and nationwide standards to keep families safe and reform the criminal justice system starting with passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. I believe in comprehensive changes that promote safety, justice, and equity for all residents.

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?

I have been aggressive in ensuring that small businesses within Prince George's County have the necessary resources to be able to thrive. These businesses are the lifeblood of our community and provide an important economic and cultural role in the community. We have been particularly active in ensuring that Hispanic businesses have access to capital, by providing financial assistance programs specifically targeted at Hispanic entrepreneurs to help them start businesses. We created several business incubators and support programs to provide Hispanic entrepreneurs with access to guidance and mentorship opportunities. We also have provided technical assistance and trainings for small business owners, offering a variety of programs that are tailored for the Hispanic community.

These are all policies that I believe can be better supported by the Federal government, and in the Senate I would seek to expand upon my experience providing these sorts of resources and opportunities to make sure that more can take advantage of the types of programs we've implemented in Prince George's.

8. Immigration

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

I believe it is critical for all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, to feel safe in their communities and have access to critical services to keep their families healthy and improve their quality of life. This is why I was proud to be the only State's Attorney to push for a law to provide driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants so that they are able to safely commute to work, helping ensure they are able to support their families. It's also why I have advocated for legislation to allow undocumented residents to more easily access healthcare coverage for themselves and their families.

It's also critical that we pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship for those already living and working in our country as valued members of our communities.

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?

I will be a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to mend the broken immigration system and alleviate the situation at the border. This reform must include creating a pathway to citizenship for those already living and working in the United States and mechanisms to speed asylum claims processing. I will fervently support initiatives such as The American Dream and Promise Act, aimed at safeguarding the rights and future of DREAMers and TPS recipients. I firmly believe that these individuals deserve certainty and security, regardless of who holds the office of the President.

I believe the recent bipartisan immigration bill was a good step forward. The bill was the best chance we have had in recent memory to help provide relief to the crisis at our border while finding a humane solution for those who are in our country currently. While it was not a perfect bill - I believe it should have gone further to create pathways to citizenship and protect our immigrant communities - it was a good step forward. Senate Republicans, the same ones that Larry Hogan seeks to work with, showed that they are beholden to one person above all in voting against the legislation: Donald Trump.