

## Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

## Montgomery County Council District 1 Candidates' Bios Candidates Forum sponsored by the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

May 10, 2018



**Richard Banach** is a college student at Randolph-Macon College studying political science. "In my studies I have realized certain constants among our two major political parties. Neither is perfect, yet core supporters of either

party support a majority of their party's beliefs. This causes politicians to create policies that cater to their party's beliefs to secure a primary win, but not necessarily what is best for the community. I encourage you to look at the voting history of our County Council. The word unanimous is on most bills, including controversial plans like the Westbard sector plan, according to Bethesda Magazine. The one thing that sets me apart from any other candidate running is that I have no ideological bias. For every issue, especially when there is public outcry, I research the history of the issue to learn the facts, ask for expert opinions, and only then do I come to a position. This method for solving problems is what we need, not someone who will take an interest group position or party interests over that of expert opinions. I proved that I live by this method, when I voted my conscience in 2016 and hopefully you will vote your conscience in 2018."



**Bill Cook** is running because "I care about this community. I grew up here, my family lives here, it's my home. I am frustrated that so many of us do not have a voice that represents us on the county council and I want to fix that. To do so, we need independent voices on

the council. We need a voice for the people—not the development companies or special interests. That's why my campaign only accepts small-dollar donations from people – no money from corporate donors or special interest groups accepted. I am not a political insider or a wealthy bureaucrat. I am a small business owner who grew up here in Montgomery County, went to school here, and who will fight to defend our community and way of life from the threats of reckless development and poor planning. With your support, we will face today's problems, like overcrowded schools, congested roadways, and stalled economic growth. Together, we will improve quality of life, strengthen our communities and protect our environment."

[www.cookinthecouncil.com/](http://www.cookinthecouncil.com/)



**Pete Fosselman** is running for County Council District 1 because he believes we need new leadership for new challenges. His record of public service includes consensus building, fostering economic growth, and creating common sense solutions. As

Deputy Secretary of State, Pete restructured

operations into more efficient divisions and advocated for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking by expanding state support programs. As the Mayor of Kensington, he chaperoned a well thought out Master Plan through the County approval process, with a tempered approach to density and school capacity. Pete also worked closely with the General Assembly to amend liquor and zoning laws as tools for attracting new business. Currently, Pete works for County Executive Leggett as a land use planner spearheading the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, which includes the expansion of the Food & Drug Administration. If elected to the County Council, Pete will focus on three priority areas: **Balancing Growth, Attracting Business, and our Aging Population**. He will focus on easing school overcrowding, tackling our traffic and transit problems and helping our seniors age in place. As a Council Member, Pete will do more to balance educational and social needs with economic growth, while preserving the great quality of life we have in Montgomery County.

[www.Petefosselman.com](http://www.Petefosselman.com)



**Andrew Friedson** is a lifelong Montgomery County resident who has served at some of the highest levels of state government, where he's dedicated his career to making government more effective, efficient, and responsive. Whether holding public agencies

accountable or scrutinizing billions in government contracts, securing a dignified retirement for teachers and public servants, or improving customer service at large government agencies, Andrew has demonstrated how to make the public sector

actually work for the public. The Bethesda resident oversaw a complete restructuring and reorganization of the State's \$6 billion 529 college savings program, where he helped hundreds of thousands of Maryland families save for college. He has been a driving force in establishing a new statewide savings program to help Marylanders with disabilities live independent, financially secure lives, and has provided direct financing to local small businesses as a gubernatorial appointee to Maryland's Small Business Development Financing Authority, and is also the Chair of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families which serves the County's most at-risk youth.

[www.Andrewfreidson.com](http://www.Andrewfreidson.com)



**Ana Sol Gutiérrez** is a MD legislator, a systems engineer, an experienced policymaker, budget expert, and problem solver committed to great schools, balanced economic development, reliable transportation, and climate change

solutions. Ana is proudly participating in MoCo's publicly financing fund that will keep big donors, corporations and developers out of our County elections.

Ana made history as the first Latina to be elected in Maryland, as well as the First Salvadoran-American elected to public office in the USA (1990). Ana has served 16 years as a MD State delegate representing District 18 in Annapolis, and 8 years on our school board. By profession, Ana is a chemist and computer systems engineer, with over 30-years work experience in information technology in the public and private sector. She is a recognized leader

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and role model for women in the fields of science & technology (STEM). Her passion for Education Equity and her extensive experience with public policy at local, state, and national levels have made her an effective, progressive leader and budget expert in Annapolis. She fought to pass historic legislation in Maryland including Marriage Equality, the MD Dream Act, Paid Sick Leave, and to strengthen our gun safety laws, and champions universal health care for all, women's rights, public safety and our environment. She promotes expanding dual language programs for ELLs and all students in early grades.

SUMMARY: Over 25 years of public service at state, local, and Federal levels: MD House of Delegates, MCPS, and US DOT, plus her private-sector experience at CSC, Ford Aerospace, & Booz Allen, working for NASA, FAA, US Dpt. of ED, taught her how vital good government and effective resource management are to delivering results and meeting constituent needs and expectations. Her activism and advocacy for working families, immigrants, women, children, and youth reflect her cross-cultural understanding & multilingual communication talents.

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**Jim McGee:** I am a 20-year resident of the Bannockburn neighborhood of Bethesda. Donna and I moved here from central Pennsylvania with our then 8<sup>th</sup> grade son. In Pennsylvania, I was active in my union and in Democratic politics. I was one of the founding members of Three Mile

Island Alert before the accident at TMI and part of the leadership through the accident. I am an employee benefit professional with an MBA and a Certified Employee Benefits Specialist. I have spent my career trying to bring labor and management together on benefit issues. I am now the executive director of the Transit Employees' Health & Welfare Fund which administers the health care benefits for the members of ATU Local 689 employed by WMATA. In this role, I have come to see how broken our health care system is. For the past 8 years I have been active with the single payer movement working with groups in Vermont, New York, and elsewhere that are advocating for single payer at the state level. I have also been part of reform efforts in MD serving on one of the work groups connected with Maryland's leading edge global hospital budgeting initiative.

[www.McGeeforCouncil.com](http://www.McGeeforCouncil.com)

Twitter: @McGeeforCouncil

[www.facebook.com/McGeeforCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/McGeeforCouncil)



**Reggie Oldak** is a tax attorney and a champion for working families. She's a long-time County resident; she and her husband and moved to Bethesda 30 years ago for the good schools, and her children went to public schools here. She has experience at all levels of government. She worked at the IRS as a tax lawyer, in Annapolis as a legislative aide, and at the County Council. She's also a passionate champion for women and families. She served as Chair of the Board of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, President of Montgomery County's Commission for Women, and Senior Counsel at the National Women's Law Center. She believes that the

biggest responsibility the Council has is spending the county budget of \$5.4 billion. Her top three priorities for Montgomery County are (1) ensuring that our schools and teachers have the resources they need to educate our growing, diverse student population; (2) investing in our transportation infrastructure to support economic development, protect the environment, and enhance our quality of life; and (3) promoting fiscal responsibility and adding good jobs so that we have the resources to maintain the services our residents need. She's participating in the County's new public financing system, which means she cannot accept more than \$150 from an individual, and she cannot accept contributions from corporations or special interests of any kind.

[www.ReggieOldak.com](http://www.ReggieOldak.com)

[www.facebook.com/ReggieOldakfor](https://www.facebook.com/ReggieOldakfor)

[CountyCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/ReggieOldakfor)



**Dalbin Osorio** is a first-generation college graduate of an immigrant and the product of a single-parent household. Dalbin ran Title IV programs in low-income communities, and is now a foster care social worker in D.C. Dalbin primarily provides case management and family stabilization services to families that are facing challenges ranging from educational neglect, physical abuse, and inadequate supervision. Dalbin also is a 2017 Organizing for Action Community Engagement Fellow, and he received his Masters of Social Work in 2015. Dalbin was awarded the Graham-Windham Mission Award, given to social workers who exemplify a commitment to the organization's

mission, in 2013. He is currently the Mid-Atlantic Region Director for the Black Caucus of the Young Democrats of America.

[www.Dalbinosorio.com](http://www.Dalbinosorio.com)



**Meredith Wellington**, an attorney, has over 20 years of service to Montgomery County, focusing on its residents and communities. For eight years, she was a member of the County Planning Board. Meredith led the fight to strengthen rules

requiring transportation and schools to keep pace with new development. She worked to keep affordable housing and promote forest conservation. She spearheaded the successful Ballfield Initiative, which has invested over \$15M to renovate and create new playing fields across the county. Meredith currently serves as Vice Chair of the Parks Foundation, where she focuses on expanding and creating parks, including the Josiah Henson Park and the new Western Grove Urban Park. An active member of the board of Montgomery Women, Meredith grew up in Houston and attended Wellesley College on a scholarship. She received her law degree from the George Washington University. She and her husband, Peter, have three married sons and two granddaughters. They live in Chevy Chase.

[www.Meredithwellington.com](http://www.Meredithwellington.com),

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Representing the Citizens Associations of Brookdale, Drummond, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Friendship Heights, Glen Echo Heights, Kenwood, Kenwood Condominium, Kenwood House Cooperative, Somerset, Somerset House, Springfield, Sumner Village Condominium, Westmoreland, Westbard Mews, Westwood Mews, and Wood Acres