#### JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FUND

Montgomery County Democratic Primary 2018 Voter Guide

THINK JEWISHLY. VOTE LOCALLY.

### ENDORSEMENT

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District 1: District 2: District 3: District 4: District 5: Marc Elrich Gabe Albornoz Brandy Brooks Hans Riemer Chris Wilhelm Reggie Oldak No Endorsement Ben Shnider Nancy Navarro Tom Hucker

We are not endorsing in school board, state, or federal races. See page 16 for more details about these races

The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund is a grassroots community organization working in Montgomery County and DC. We work in coalition with trusted partners to advance issue campaigns to end all forms of oppression and make real improvements in people's lives. We work with elected officials to craft policy and with our grassroots community to hold those officials accountable.

As Jews, we are called by our history and the teachings of our tradition to repair the world by working for a county where everyone has what they need to live and thrive, where white, Black, and brown residents live in dignity and have a voice in democracy, and where our government focuses on the well-being of all residents and in particular the needs of those who are most vulnerable.

Learn more about the JUFJ Campaign Fund and our endorsements and take action for these candidates at www.jufjcampaignfund.org.

(Write-In / Por escrito)

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# ΙΝΤΚΟΔυςτιοΝ

JUFJ Campaign Fund's grassroots election team of volunteers and staff undertook an extensive process leading up to the 2018 Primary to identify candidates who share our priorities and values, and who reflect the diversity of Montgomery County.

**The 2018 election is historic**, with new county term limits creating open seats, the availability of public financing, and a surge of civic engagement since the 2016 elections. After a series of community meetings, 16 JUFJ Campaign Fund members from across the county and representing various ages and life stages joined our endorsement team.

Our team evaluted candidates based on a questionnaire about our key issue areas and interviews with teams of five to seven team members. We attended public forums, consulted with partner organizations, and assessed the past record of incumbents and relevant experience of new candidates.

#### **Key Issue Areas:**

- I. A Budget is a Moral Document
- 2. \$15 Minimum Wage is Necessary, but not Sufficient
- 3. Early Care and Education that Works for Kids and Parents
- 4. Trust and Safety for Our Immigrant Neighbors
- 5. Housing is a Human Right
- 6. Transportation that Prioritizes People, not Cars
- 7. Campaign Viability and Financing

We strongly support the new public financing option for Montgomery County candidates, and seven of our nine endorsed candidates chose that option. Ben Shnider has committed to using public financing in future campaigns and we encourage Tom Hucker to as well.

Visit www.jufjcampaignfund.org for a copy of our questionnaire and more information about why we care about these issues.

## **MOCO BY THE NUMBERS**

People think of Montgomery County as wealthy and white, but many of us struggle to get by, disproportionately Black and brown residents. Local government can make a huge difference in our lives, but voters need to pay attention. Here's what the numbers say about race, class, and voters in Montgomery County:

- Just over 1,000,000 people live in Montgomery County
- 55% of residents and 70% of public school students are people of color
- One third of residents were **born outside the US**
- Students in Montgomery County Public Schools come from over I50 countries and speak over I30 languages at home
- Sustaining a family with one child costs over \$70,000 a year, but one in four households earn less than \$50,000
- Legislation passed by the County Council and Executive last year raised the hourly wage of 100,000 residents who currently make under \$15/hour
- **17% of registered voters participated in the** 2014 Democratic Primary and some races were decided by a few hundred votes
- 100% of 2014 Democratic Primary winners were elected

In local elections, every vote matters. Don't just be a voter — turn your friends and family into voters too.

# ENDORSEMENTS

### County Executive: Marc Elrich



Marc Elrich is the best choice for County Executive. As a progressive champion on the County Council, he has advocated for all members of the community, especially the most vulnerable. Most recently, he led the Fight for \$15, and he proposed a new equity framework for county laws and policies.

Color-blind policies don't have a color-blind impact, due to systemic racism and other entrenched inequities. Under Marc's proposed

#### marcelrich.org

framework, new policies would be evaluated on their impact on Black and brown people, immigrants, low income residents, and others affected by these inequities.

Marc will be a community- and people-centered Executive. When it comes to how county government functions, he will listen to the people serving in the government. When it comes to breaking down barriers to quality education and increasing availability of affordable housing, he will listen to residents from across our diverse county. When it comes to expanding business incubator programs and making sensible regulatory reforms, he will listen to the small, local businesses, which are most often owned by immigrants, women, and people of color.

On the opponents: We appreciate Councilmembers George Leventhal and Roger Berliner's many years of service to our county. Councilmember Leventhal has been a champion of affordable housing and paid sick days. Councilmember Berliner has taken a lead on combating food insecurity and poverty. Rose Krasnow and David Blair gave thoughtful answers to our questions during the endorsement process. In this deep field of candidates, Marc's commitment to racial and economic justice and his grassroots, people-powered approach stand out from the crowd.

Delegate Bill Frick did not respond to our questionnaire or our efforts to meet with him.

### Council At Large: Gabe Albornoz



#### gabeforcouncil.com

Gabe Albornoz is an experienced leader who shares our vision for a Montgomery County that works for everyone who lives here.

As Director of the county's Recreation Department, Gabe invested resources in after school programs, senior services, and community centers. These programs benefit all residents, and they are especially valuable to working families and economically vulnerable seniors. Under Gabe's leadership, the Rec Department made strategic

decisions to ensure new programs and new spending were targeted to parts of county that have greater numbers of low-income people and people of color and have historically been neglected and underresourced.

Gabe's experience with his department's large budget, staff, and countywide scope will be tremendously valuable on the County Council. He knows how to build coalitions between government, non-profits, and the private sector that work for all of us, no matter where we come from.

As a Councilmember, Gabe will work toward a county where everyone shares in the fruits of our prosperity, and where residents of all races and countries of origin have what we need to thrive.

### Council At Large: Brandy Brooks



brandy4montgomery.com

Brandy Brooks is an inspiring leader who will bring tremendous skills as an advocate and community organizer to her work on the County Council.

Brandy will champion an equitybased agenda for more affordable, safe, and healthy housing. Her plan for transportation access will expand multi-modal transit networks to reach east, west, and up-county. she has innovative solutions to improve residents' access to fresh, healthy food, including plans to support

farmers and food retailers, and culturally sensitive food assistance programs for residents facing langauge barriers.

Brandy understands that relationships are key to making change, and she knows how to bring people into the governing process to build trust. As organizers, we understand the value of that commitment to community engagement.

On the Council, Brandy will work towards healing divides between east/ west and up/down county, and she will champion policies that protect working families, white, Black, and brown.

### Council At Large: Hans Riemer



#### hansriemer.com

Hans Riemer has a proven track record of voting with JUFJ on key issues, including raising the minimum wage twice and passing earned sick and safe leave.

Hans has led the way in expanding pre-K education for the children of our county, especially those who can't pay for expensive private schools. In his third term on the Council, we look forward to working with Hans to make affordable, quality preschool available to everyone who needs it.

In addition to his leadership on education, Hans championed an effort to explore paid family and medical leave for all residents. He has also taken a lead on listening to the concerns of our immigrant neighbors and he has committed to working with us and our coalition partners to make sure our county lives up to its promise to be a welcoming place to all people. We can count on Hans to partner with us to address systemic inequities in our county, as he has in his first two terms.

### Council At Large: Chris Wilhelm



#### wilhelmforcouncil.com

Chris Wilhelm is an exciting new progressive voice for our county.

Chris is a teacher and community organizer with a deep understanding of our schools and the challenges faced by immigrants in a county where one third of residents were born outside the US.

Chris grew up in Silver Spring, and graduated from Montgomery Blair High School and the University of Maryland. As an English as a Second Language teacher at Northwood

HS, he uses his understanding of the region to help his students navigate their new homes here.

Alongside his teaching career, Chris has been a field organizer for President Barack Obama in 2008, a staffer for Delegate David Moon, a legislative aide for Representative Jamie Raskin, and an activist with IMPACT Silver Spring. His experience engaging the public in the political process will make him a powerful force for moving the Council toward policies that work for everyone, regardless of country of origin or immigration status.

#### Other At Large Candidates

We believe that Gabe, Brandy, Hans, and Chris will be the most effective partners in our work for social, racial, and economic justice. However, this year's County Council At Large Democratic primary has an unprecedented 33 candidates running for four seats. Many of the candidates we have not endorsed have something to offer the Council.

This race provides an opportunity to make our County Council much more representative of our diverse population. While 55% of residents are racial and ethnic minorities, only two current Council members are people of color. Likewise, only two are women. Many At Large candidates are people of color and many are women.

Several candidates support our social justice agenda and we appreciate their work as advocates and community leaders. We are not endorsing Shruti Bhatnager, Bill Conway, Hoan Dang, Evan Glass, Seth Grimes, Ashwani Jain, Will Jawando, Danielle Meitiv, Jill Ortman-Fouse, or Mohammad Siddique, but each of them would bring a meaningful perspective to our County Council.

These candidates shared their vision for the county with us through our questionnaire and interview process. While we don't agree with all of them on all the issues, we look forward to working together to move our county toward a more just and equitable future.

Marilyn Balcombe, based on her questionnaire answers and past advocacy as CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, is not aligned with our economic equity and social justice agenda.

Margins of victory in this race will be razor thin.

Winners will make policy decisions for everyone.

Use ALL FOUR of your At Large votes!

### Council District I: Reggie Oldak



reggieoldak.com

Reggie Oldak is a proven champion for women and children of all races and economic backgrounds.

Reggie will bring to the Council her considerable experience as a tax attorney, Senior Counsel and Director of Government Relations for the National Women's Law Center, and time working in both Montgomery County and Maryland government.

As past Chair of the Board of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan

Washington and President of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, Reggie has seen the many challenges that working women and their families face. She is commited to working with us, and with other advocates, to ensure our schools and teachers have the resources they need to educate our growing, diverse student population. As a Councilmember, she will support county services that benefit poor families and she will work to increase housing options that are affordable for the healthcare workers, teachers, and public safety workers who serve our community.

On the opponents: We are thrilled to endorse Reggie, but we were also impressed with other candidates in this race. Andrew Friedson's depth of analysis, in part based on his work in Annapolis, would make him an effective policy maker. Ana Sol Gutierrez is a trailblazing legislator and advocate who has been endorsed by many progressive organizations. We appreciated that Meredith Wellington and Pete Fosselman listened carefully to our views when we met with them. In public forums, we liked Dalbin Osorio's community-focused perspective based on his experience as a social worker and organizer. From this strong list of candidates, we are endorsing Reggie for her alignment with us on the issues, her extenstive experience, and her publicly-funded, people-powered campaign.

#### Council District 2: No Endorsement

We value our long relationship with Councilmember Craig Rice and his commitment to the young people of our county. However, he voted against increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour when it first came up for a vote, which opened the door to County Executive Leggett's veto and a harmful delay to this much needed wage increase. With no viable challenger, we expect Councilmember Rice to be re-elected, and we look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of everyone in Montgomery County.

#### Council District 3: Ben Shnider



shniderforcouncil.com

Ben Shnider has fresh and creative ideas for addressing the needs of everyone in our community.

He has approached running for the Council with an energetic, thoughtful, and community-centered style that will serve him well on the Council.

Ben has spent the last year listening to constituents from every corner of District 3 and crafting proposals to address their concerns. His plans for public transit and access to

Montgomery College for all public school graduates in the county will benefit everyone who lives here, regardless of income level.

Ben grew up in Montgomery County, attended Emory University, and went to graduate school at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is an activist and change-maker, from working as an organizer for Barack Obama's 2008 campaign, to being Political Director of J Street, to serving as Elections Director at Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, where he launched a political action committee dedicated to supporting progressive candidates.

Ben's Jewish activism on behalf of economic justice and racial equity is a model for what we want from our elected leaders.

On the incumbent: Councilmember Sidney Katz voted against the \$15 minimum wage when it first came up for a vote in 2016, which led to County Executive Leggett's veto and a harmful delay of the wage increase. We appreciate that Councilmember Katz was willing to work with Councilmember Elrich to find a compromise proposal that passed the council unanimously in 2017. However, during negotiations Councilmember Katz stopped communicating with advocates, and we believe that Ben is the best partner for our work going forward.

### Council District 4: Nancy Navarro



nancynavarro.org

Nancy Navarro has proven herself to be a key ally on the County Council on issues such as raising the minimum wage and passing earned sick and safe leave.

Nancy co-sponsored a new equity framework that will evalute County actions based on their impact on communities impacted by systemic racism and other entrenched inequities, including effects on Black and brown families and recent immigrants. In a county that has great wealth but also great need, we are looking forward to working with

Nancy in her next term to use this equity framework to reshape decision making in our county.

Nancy shared with us her vision for greater equity in schools, development, and transportation projects to bring greater opportunity to parts of the County that need more resources. Nancy is poised to become the next President of the County Council and she will bring her extensive experience and knowledge as she guides the Council through a time of major transition.

#### Council District 5: Tom Hucker



Tom Hucker has been a champion of the \$15 minimum wage and funding for universal pre-K.

Tom is working to establish a Student Loan Financing Authority to protect county residents from crushing student debt, and he has been a leader on public transportation, especially in his work on a Bus Rapid Transit system.

#### tomhucker.com

As an experienced community organizer, Tom prioritizes working

with advocates and impacted communities, and he supports making Council meetings and hearings accessible to more people in the county.

As an advocate, a Maryland State Delegate, and in his first term on the Council, Tom has stood up for policies that help struggling white, Black, and brown working families. We are counting on him to continue his progressive record in a second term on the Council.

On the opponents: Kevin Harris has principled concerns about some county policies and Kenge Malikidogo-Fludd is an activist with a compelling personal story. We are endorsing Tom because his record of standing up for justice and working collaboratively to craft policy makes him the best choice for District 5.

# OTHER ELECTIONS

The JUFJ Campaign Fund limited our endorsements to the Montgomery County Council and Executive races, but real policy change involves elected officials at all levels of local and state government.

Several of our partner organizations made endorsements at the school board, state, and federal level. These are organizations we work with regularly, who are committed to building power in Montgomery County and to making meaningful and effective change in our community.

We may not agree with every endorsement that each group has made, but we respect our partners' analysis. Their endorsements cover:

Maryland Governor and Lieutenant Governor US Congress - House District 6 Maryland General Assembly Montgomery County Board of Education

#### Visit jufjcampaignfund.org

to compare these partners' endorsements:

CASA in Action Montgomery County Education Association (Apple Ballot) MCGEO/UFCW Local 1994 SEIU Local 500 SEIU 32BJ Metro Washington AFL-CIO LiUNA Progressive Maryland Progressive Neighbors

# LOCAL ELECTION INFO

Visit **elections.maryland.gov** for information about your current voter registration, voting districts, and polling place. You can also register, update your registration, or request absentee ballots.

MoCo Elections information: (240) 777-VOTE or www.777vote.org

Your Congressional district, State district, County district, and school board district are **all different districts**. As you are learning about candidates, make sure you know your districts and which candidates are running in each race (elections.maryland.gov).

If you are a **first-time voter in Maryland**, you may need an ID to vote. Visit **elections.maryland.gov** for more information.

You **may not use electronic devices** while voting. Make sure to print this guide or take notes on paper before you vote.

You must be **registered with a party by June 5, 2018** to vote in the party primary.

You may vote in the nonpartisan school board election without registering with a party.

Here are some useful sources of local election news:

Bethesda Beat: bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/Politics Maryland Matters: marylandmatters.org Maryland Reporter: marylandreporter.com Greater Greater Washington: ggwash.org

Jews United For Justice newsletter: sign up at jufj.org Local candidate forums: bit.ly/2018MoCoForums

#### 2018 ELECTION DATES JUNE PRIMARY

Tuesday, June 5: Voter registration/change of party affiliation deadline Thursday, June 14 - 21: Early voting, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Monday, June 18: Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail/fax\* Friday, June 22: Deadline to download absentee ballot\*

#### **Tuesday, June 26: Primary Election**

#### **NOVEMBER GENERAL**

Monday, July 9: Voter registration reopens Tuesday, October 16: Voter registration deadline Thursday, October 25 - November 1: Early Voting, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Tuesday, October 30: Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail/fax\* Friday, November 2: Deadline to download absentee ballot\*

\***Any registered voter** may vote by absentee ballot. It's a great way to vote if you want to volunteer at a polling place on election day, or if you can't make it to an early voting center or to your polling place.

#### **Tuesday, November 6: General Election**

### Vote early at **any** Early Voting Center June 14 - June 21 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

After you've voted early, come volunteer outside a polling place with the JUFJ Campaign Fund on Election Day!

Activity Center at Bohrer Park 506 South Frederick Ave Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Damascus Community Rec Center 25520 Oak Dr Damascus MD 20872

Executive Office Building 101 Monroe St Rockville MD 20850

Germantown Community Rec Center 18905 Kingsview Rd Germantown MD 20874

Jane E. Lawton Community Rec Center 4301 Willow Ln Chevy Chase MD 20815

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Rec Center 14906 Old Columbia Pike Burtonsville MD 20866

Mid-County Community Recreation Center 2004 Queensguard Rd Silver Spring MD 20906

### PRIMARY DAY IS TUESDAY, JUNE 26.

Potomac Community Rec Center 11315 Falls Rd Potomac MD 20854

Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Station The Oak Room 17921 Brooke Road Sandy Spring, MD 20860

> St. Catherine Laboure The Claridge Room 11801 Claridge Road Wheaton, MD 20902

Accessible Early Voting Center: Silver Spring Civic Building I Veterans Pl Silver Spring MD 20910

ADA entrance between Ellsworth & Pershing. Call 240.777.8683 for accessibility information.



#### THINK JEWISHLY.VOTE LOCALLY.

# Join us to take action at www.jufjcampaignfund.org

This message has been authorized and paid for by Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund, 1100H St NW Wash DC 20005. Lilah Pomerance, President.

This message has not been authorized or approved by any candidate.