

2026 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Maryland

Key:  Yes, supports  No, does not support  Chose not to answer

MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL & COUNTY CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	Arian Borghei	Harold Maldonado	Josephine Salazar
CITY / COUNTY	Montgomery County	Montgomery County	Montgomery County
POSITION	County Council District 2 (write-in)	County Council District 7	County Council District 5
Q1: Adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as the standard for city departments.			
Q2: Ordinance for content-neutral safety buffer zones around private residences and other targeted sites.			
Q3: Consistent enforcement against unpermitted demonstrations, illegal signage and obstruction; coordinate with state agencies.			
Q4: Procurement standards excluding vendors that discriminate against Israel or Israeli entities, per state law.			
Q5: Review city grants so public funds do not advance content singling out a national or religious group.			
Q6: Convene a working group with Jewish institutions and law enforcement on threats, security planning and security grants.			
Q7: Publicly oppose, including by a no-vote, council resolutions on foreign policy outside the city’s jurisdiction.			
Q8: Publish an annual public report on hate crimes and bias incidents, broken down by targeted group.			
Q9: Establish a defined channel for the Jewish community to engage your office on policy and safety concerns.			

Verbal Responses:

Scott Goldberg Evan – Montgomery County Council at Large

I appreciate that you're gathering information about anti-Semitism and issues related to the Jewish community. It's an important subject. That being said, I am intimately intertwined with a large part of the Jewish community for the Democratic Primary that includes deep relationships with orgs and their members, including but not limited to the JCRC, Jewish Federation, the Kemp Mill Orthodox community and an informal confederation of congregations that numbered to about 25 shuls that reached over 10,000 Jews with recommended candidates. The Washington Jewish Week endorsed me as well.

Esther Wells – Montgomery County Executive

As County Executive, the Montgomery County Jewish community will no longer stand alone against hate. I plan to continue Councilmember Andrew Friedson’s strong efforts to fund the protection of houses of worship and will hold MCPS leadership accountable to ensure they swiftly address the rising tide of antisemitism in concrete steps that protect Jewish students and staff.

I will closely follow the statistics from the Montgomery County Police Department’s monthly bias reporting to ensure our County's response to antisemitism, Anti-Black hate is prompt and effective. I will continue to affirm the IHRA definition of antisemitism adopted by the County Council.

In my campaign and as County Executive, I will focus on local issues that directly influence the daily life of our residents. Ben Zoma in Pirkei Avot, asks “Who is wise? One who learns from every person”.

Through my campaign, I have appreciated how much I have learned from every person and community I have met. As County Executive, I plan to continue to regularly meet and learn from members of the Jewish community. I am also looking forward to coordinating with our local law enforcement officers, for whom I am so grateful for their service protecting our houses of worship.

My previous actions and words are evidence of my commitment against this pernicious Jew hatred: I spoke out against a member of my own party running for election who was sharing antisemitic conspiracy theories, I testified against Bill 23-26 which disarms synagogues and houses of worship and I wrote a letter in support of the Silver Spring Jewish Center in their fight to defend themselves, I stood with the Jewish community when there was an antisemitic incident at Ben Yehuda Pizza in Silver Spring, and I have been an active member of the Maryland Jewish Alliance Facebook group for a long time. Together we can build a stronger, more inclusive Montgomery County.