

Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® 2022 Montgomery County Primary Election Endorsements

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® (GCAAR) is proud to announce its 2022 primary election candidate endorsements.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE ENDORSEMENTS

County Executive – David Blair (D)

A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, David Blair has made investing in his community a priority. David built his business here and served as CEO as it grew ten-fold into a multi-billion-dollar enterprise. He and his wife, Mikel, have worked tirelessly with area non-profits on initiatives to provide early childhood education, end poverty and homelessness and encourage healthy living.

David believes the housing shortage in our region is a critical challenge. He understands that rising costs and lagging homeownership rates among our younger generations are dragging down our local economy, and he is ready to take action to reverse these troubling trends. Building more housing, at all economic levels, is vital for our future - and David is committed to making that a reality.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses David Blair as Democratic Nominee for Montgomery County Executive.

County Executive – Reardon Sullivan (R)

Reardon Sullivan sees our jurisdiction moving in the wrong direction and wants to correct course to build a better quality of life for our residents. He believes burdensome regulation and needless red tape are stifling job creation and business growth, as we fall behind neighboring jurisdictions.

As the founder and owner of a consulting engineering company, Reardon has worked for over 25 years with all manner of professionals in his field. If we are to grow and strengthen our tax base, we must make our county more attractive to prospective businesses and residents alike.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Reardon Sullivan in his campaign to be the Republican Nominee for County Executive.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

Council District 1 – Andrew Friedson (D)

Councilmember Andrew Friedson has been a pragmatic and steadfast leader in his first term on the Council.

Throughout the pandemic, Andrew worked to ensure our county government provided necessary aid to our residents and businesses, while advocating for necessary transparency and oversight of the programs. His efforts during this unprecedented time earned him many accolades, including being named the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce’s Legislator of the Year in 2021.

He has pushed the Council to act against the rising housing crisis by co-sponsoring legislation that established the Housing Opportunity Fund. This program will bring \$50 million to the table to accelerate projects in the Housing Opportunities Commission pipeline. Creating over 8,800 units of housing per year, this public-private housing model will be 30% income-restricted and affordable.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Andrew Friedson in his re-election campaign to be the Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council District 1.

Council District 2 - Marilyn Balcombe (D)

As an association representing thousands in the Montgomery County business community, GCAAR has worked with Marilyn Balcombe for many years. Serving as president/CEO of the Gaithersburg Germantown Chamber of Commerce for over a decade, Marilyn has been on the front lines of growing our local economy.

While recognizing that we need to find new, sustainable options for housing in our county, Marilyn believes that we need to find solutions that fit our different communities. She knows that to provide for our growing population, one size will not fit for all.

Her commitment to the wider community is evident from her years of work with Committee for Montgomery, the Arts & Humanities Council and for the Germantown Alliance.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Marilyn Balcombe in her campaign to be the Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council District 2.

District 3 – Sidney Katz (D)

With so much turnover coming to the Council, Sidney Katz’s long career of government service will be much needed.

Sidney has been an active voice for our county's business community. He has put together regular forums to keep up with the pulse of our business climate and put that information to good use. He sees the need for the county to improve its relationship with both small and big business and is working to implement those changes.

When looking at our housing landscape, Sidney has taken a mindful approach to make sure we are serving all residents. As we grow, he knows it must be smart growth paired with proper infrastructure investment to build complete communities.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Sidney Katz in his re-election bid to be the Democratic Nominee for County Council District 3.

District 4 – Amy Ginsburg (D)

Amy Ginsburg has spent her career serving her community.

Working as executive director of Manna Food Center and with Neediest Kids, Amy helped these organizations to grow and improve their reach and mission success.

As executive director of Friends of White Flint, she has brought together all parties – governmental interest, business community, citizen and more – to breathe life into one of the growing hubs of our county. Pike and Rose is thriving, as the White Flint area faces many exciting new beginnings over the coming years.

She sees the issues we face as our workforce is forced to live further and further from their jobs and the negative reverberations this causes to our local economy.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Amy Ginsburg in her campaign to be the Democratic Nominee for County Council District 4.

District 5 – Brian Anleu (D)

Between his years as Council staff and his time at the Planning Board, Brian Anleu has extensive county government experience. With that experience comes a greater understanding of where we have been and where we need to go to realize our full potential.

Brian sees the positive impact that developing a mix of housing along many levels of affordability will have on our county. He is someone who has worked on many of these initiatives and has a great working knowledge of all the tools our county has at its disposal. As a councilmember, Brian will bring better permitting and development processes into focus to help the county catch up to our lagging housing production.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Brian Anleu in his campaign to be the Democratic Nominee for County Council District 5.

District 6 – Natali Fani-Gonzalez (D)

Opportune to this moment in time, Natali Fani-Gonzalez has spent years working on attainable and affordable housing at the Planning Board.

As a Planning Board Commissioner, Natali helped oversee development and plan transportation infrastructure and manages the park systems in our county. Working on over 20 planning efforts – including master plans, sector plans and the county growth and infrastructure policy – she brings a unique skillset to the council. Natali is a strong proponent of strengthening our public transit system as part of our approach to combatting climate change.

She has frequently been recognized by area organizations and colleagues alike for her dedication to building a better future for our county.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Natali Fani-Gonzalez in her campaign to be the Democratic Nominee for County Council District 6.

District 7 – Dawn Luedtke (D)

Dawn Luedtke is bringing her years of public service to the county’s new District 7.

Dedicated to helping others, she began her law career advocating for patients harmed by corporate negligence. Over the last eight years of her career, she has served the people of Maryland under the last two Attorneys General. Her experience as a certified law enforcement trainer and collaborative approach with police, fire and rescue services and emergency management planning will aid Montgomery County as we navigate the future of public safety.

Dawn also wants to bring a healthier business climate to bear in Montgomery County. She believes a more vibrant, diverse landscape of industry will help build a better local economy.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Dawn Luedtke in her campaign to be the Democratic Nominee for County Council District 7.

Council At-Large - Gabe Albornoz (D)

Serving as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee over the last four years, Gabe Albornoz stepped up to help our County through the pandemic. As Chair, Gabe fought to ensure that our county’s rapid response during this once-in-a-century crisis was equitable, focusing in on serving our most vulnerable communities.

This leadership was recognized by his colleagues as Gabe was chosen to serve as Council Vice President and then Council President during his first term in office.

Through legislative initiatives like expanding the working families income supplement and providing property tax credits for public safety officers, Gabe is working to better our business climate by investing in our most important local resource: our residents.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Gabe Albornoz in his re-election campaign to be a Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council At-Large.

Council At-Large - Evan Glass (D)

Evan Glass has been an effective leader in his first four years on the Council. As the Council's lead for Homelessness and Vulnerable Communities, he is working to address our growing housing crisis. GCAAR proudly supported Evan and his colleagues in their efforts to lower and erase barriers to housing through the Housing Justice Act. Ensuring all residents have pathways to safe and stable housing is a cause that betters all in our community.

Evan understands the importance of cooperation between Montgomery County government and our business community, regularly reaching out to find solutions to problems our residents face. In his second term, we look forward to his continued work on behalf of all who call Montgomery County home.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Evan Glass in his campaign to be a Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council At-Large.

Council At-Large – Tom Hucker (D)

Tom Hucker has spent his career in public service working to make government nimbler and more responsive to the needs of its residents. From his time in the State Legislature to the first eight years of his Council tenure, he has been active in bringing our county's numerous resources to those who need them the most.

A prolific legislator, Tom has introduced over 50 pieces of legislation on a myriad of issues including employee discussion protections and environmental reforms. Tom knows that growing our local economy and creating an environment for job growth includes a robust, countywide housing portfolio. He stands ready to put his legislative skills to work to tackle the dearth of housing at all levels we see in the marketplace.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Tom Hucker in his campaign to be a Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council At-Large.

Council At-Large – Scott Goldberg (D)

Scott Goldberg is a long-time GCAAR member who has worked for years on the policies and priorities for which GCAAR stands. Not only has he worked to better our industry, but he has

invested years in his community through efforts such as his pro bono work with Maryland Legal Aid.

As the founder and owner of a residential property management company, Scott understands the challenges facing housing providers and the difficult housing landscape our county faces. Homeownership is a cornerstone of generational wealth, and Scott wants to better our community by expanding access to it. He is a strong proponent of increasing our affordable, attainable housing stock and investing in the infrastructure needed to weave in this growth.

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® endorses Scott Goldberg in his campaign to be a Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Council At-Large.

Note: Given none of the Republican primary races for the Montgomery County Council are contested, GCAAR's Political and Campaign Affairs Committee will not be endorsing in any of those races. The Committee will re-evaluate general election endorsement after the July 19 primary.