

# Teresa Saavedra Woorman



June 27, 2024

Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee  
12320 Parklawn Dr., Suite 210  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Saman and Members of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee:

I am writing today to apply for the vacant Delegate position in District 16. I hope to convince you that I'm the best candidate in this race with the best platform, not only due to my having the *most* legislative experience and the greatest knowledge of how to get things done in the Maryland General Assembly but also because of my personal journey and the diverse perspectives I bring as someone who has lived the realities that many in our community face.

## **Who I Am:**

I'm a lifelong, true-blue Democrat and while I fit into many different categories, I think I'm hard to categorize. I've been a member of the MCDCC representing District 16 for a little more than two years, first chosen in April 2022 by the MCDCC to fill the remaining portion of Sarah Wolek's term and then elected in November 2022 by District 16 voters. I'm actively involved in a lot of Democratic groups, but I'm hardly the insider that some people seem to think that we unpaid Central Committee members are.

I was born and lived in Puebla, Mexico until age 9, and went to school in Mexico through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (but I skipped 4<sup>th</sup> grade). I came to the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant in 2001 and have lived in Montgomery County ever since. After starting school as a "free lunch kid," I had a middle-class upbringing in Germantown, graduating from Northwest High School, Montgomery College, and the University of Maryland (Go Terps!). I was just shy of a bachelor's degree in accounting when I changed my major and instead got my degree in Government and Politics (with a minor in Italian). I became a U.S. citizen right before I graduated from college, and my family can tell you that I was so proud to be an American that I was jumping up and down at my naturalization ceremony. I'm also proud to be a Marylander through and through, but frankly, attending Maryland public schools for middle school, high school, and college was all my family could afford. I've been working since I was 14, first as a babysitter, then as a McDonald's cashier. I got poached from McDonald's to work at The Lube Center, where I learned how to change an oil filter! I also worked for an accounting firm throughout college to pay for it. I have a knack for languages and speak four of them – my native language is Spanish, but I also speak English, French, and Italian. I was raised Catholic but have been active with the Board of Directors of Pro-Choice Maryland and married a Jewish football player I met in high school many years ago. Matthew and I grew up upcounty but now live in Bethesda with our dog, Gatsby, and our cats, Oscar and Snow White.

I have firsthand knowledge of the challenges that come with navigating systems that many take for granted. My experiences have instilled in me a profound understanding of the importance of accessible government and representation that truly reflects the lived experiences of Montgomery

County residents. This background drives my commitment to serve our community with passion, empathy, and effectiveness.

### **My Service and Involvement in Community Affairs:**

As you know, I was the campaign manager for Marc Elrich's successful 2022 re-election campaign that was outspent by millions of dollars and still managed to win by 32 votes. I'm proud of that accomplishment but I don't always agree with everything any boss says or does, and he's the most recent but not the first or only politician with whom I've been associated. I've also worked for several other public officials, including (among others) Roger Manno, Emily Shetty, Pam Queen, Jim Rosapepe, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Pete Fosselman, Jim Gilchrist, and Brooke Lierman. I've worked for and with many of the major players in Annapolis – not just by testifying at occasional public hearings but by being there every day year-round as a General Assembly staff member for seven years– and I've established important personal relationships that would benefit our county and my constituents. I supported then-Mayor Pete Buttigieg in the 2020 primary election for President and was on the ballot as a candidate for delegate to the convention for him. After the primary, I was chosen by the Maryland Democratic Party and the Biden-Harris campaign as a Biden delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention (which ended up being virtual). This year, I am thrilled and excited to have been elected as a Joe Biden delegate to the 2024 convention in Chicago from Maryland's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

What do I have in common with all the people for whom I've worked, and why have I been on the ballot three times as a candidate for Democratic Party office? We all believe strongly in Democratic Party values. We all believe that everyone – regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation, regardless of whether they're rich, poor, or middle-class, regardless of whether they attended the nation's top private schools, public schools, or vocational schools – should have every opportunity in this country and that the Democratic Party is the *only* hope for realizing that opportunity.

My belief in the Democratic Party is why I wrote an opinion article in April that Maryland Matters published briefly before taking it down (for reasons they didn't fully explain [but you can still read the article on Medium](#)) about why Larry Hogan is neither moderate nor courageous. I said then that I planned to vote in the general election for “a Democrat who won't equivocate on reproductive rights, which party should control the U.S. Senate, or who should be the President of the United States.” I am thrilled to support Angela Alsobrooks ([I just had a great conversation with her at the Scotland Juneteenth celebration!](#)), and will do everything I can to make sure that she is elected to the U.S. Senate.

I've worked hard my whole life to get where I am today, and I plan to continue to work hard as a member of the House of Delegates for the people of District 16. I have chosen to be a public servant in multiple capacities all my adult life, and I know these opportunities would have been impossible without the Democratic Party and many of its leaders. Matthew and I both support the Party and a number of its elected officials with our time and money, but he's a former opera director and a

current nonprofit fundraiser, and I'm a government employee, so we do what we can with both our time and our money.

I'm the Vice President of both the county and state Young Democrats but I'm also the candidate in this race with the *most* day-to-day legislative experience and the greatest knowledge of how to accomplish things in the Maryland General Assembly.

### **My Platform:**

I will fight to preserve **reproductive freedom** not only this fall by supporting Angela Alsobrooks and the Maryland Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment on the general election ballot but also in the future by continuing to ensure that Maryland remains open to people who need reproductive care, whether they're Maryland residents or coming to us from other states.

I plan to focus on three critical additional areas:

1. **Healthcare:** I am committed to addressing health disparities and expanding access to quality healthcare, especially for underserved populations. My personal health challenges (which started with sub-par healthcare in Mexico) provide me with more insight than most people my age into the importance of healthcare equity. I will be a leading advocate for Maryland to do more to combat health disparities that particularly impact women and minority communities. The maternal mortality rate is unacceptable, and we need to train more medical professionals to work effectively with underserved communities. At the same time, many women who delay starting families while focusing first on their careers may need IVF, which is increasingly under threat from Republican policies and court decisions and has become almost cost prohibitive. I will fight to defend and enhance access to these vital reproductive services, making them affordable for all who choose them. While I'm privileged to have health insurance and the ability to afford the health care I need, many patients need both advocates on their behalf and financial assistance. Most of my D16 constituents won't need government-sponsored health care, but thankfully, most of them will support it for those who do.
2. **Education:** Having navigated Maryland's public school, community college, and state university system, I understand both the opportunities education can afford and the barriers that can hinder educational access. I will advocate for increased resources and support for our schools to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed. I plan to work to keep them strong and affordable for all Marylanders. Today's students are tomorrow's trained workers, which we need for Maryland's future workforce.
3. **Democracy and Voting:** I will work tirelessly to ensure that our electoral processes are fair and accessible, reflecting the democratic values we hold dear. As a democracy enthusiast who knows more about close elections and recounts than I'd like to admit, I'd like to support our county and state in making our good elections even better and more convenient for eligible voters. I also support Delegate Linda Foley's bill to fill more legislative vacancies by special election, and I know that some people are concerned that

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Candidate for Delegate from District 16

choosing an MCDCC member or a party financial contributor is a sign of a closed process for filling legislative vacancies. While I disagree and think that I'm too early in my political career to be a true political insider, I support making the vacancy process more democratic.

**I'm Asking for Your Support:**

To be clear, I'm not asking for your support because we're MCDCC colleagues or because I may have given contributions to you or your favorite candidates or causes. I'm asking for your vote because I'm the best person for the job — with the lived experience to understand the plight of a wide variety of our residents, and the day-to-day legislative experience to make a difference. I will represent our values well in the House of Delegates on the wide range of issues facing Maryland and Montgomery County today, and I ask for your vote.

I have attached my resume and look forward to speaking with all of you in the coming days and weeks. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration,



Teresa Saavedra Woorman  
Bethesda, MD