



THE GREATER BETHESDA

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Smart Business, Bright Future

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1204
Bethesda, MD 20814

T (301) 652-4900 F (301) 657-1973
staff@greaterbethesdachamber.org
www.greaterbethesdachamber.org

Contact: Ginanne M. Italiano, IOM, President & CEO
gitaliano@greaterbethesdachamber.org | 301-652-4900 x203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bethesda, MD – Democratic County Executive Candidates Face-off in First Debate of 2017

Bethesda, MD: For the first time in the 2018 Democratic primary race for Montgomery County Executive, all three candidates will face off in a debate. Hosted by [The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce](http://www.greaterbethesdachamber.org) in partnership with [Bethesda Beat](http://www.bethesda.com), the meeting of all announced Democratic candidates will take place on November 15 at 4pm at the National 4H Center in Chevy Chase. The Presenting Sponsor for the event will be Elite Personnel.

The debate, open for free to both the press and the general public, will give Montgomery County voters an opportunity to hear each candidate address key economic and business issues facing Maryland's largest county.

Immediately following the debate, the Chamber will be hosting a networking reception at the 4H Center for attendees. Information on how to register for the free debate as well as for the separate networking event can be found on the Chamber's website at www.greaterbethesdachamber.org.

"This debate is an excellent vehicle for our members, and the public at large, to hear first-hand the viewpoints and priorities of the Democratic county executive candidates," explained Ginanne Italiano, President & CEO of The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce. "Advocacy on behalf of our members is one of the Chamber's most important functions."

"Most of the events that are planned with all three candidates participating are forums where there's no give and take," said Steve Hull, editor-in-chief and publisher of *Bethesda Beat*. "To best inform the public, we thought it was important to have a true debate so that the candidates will be forced to candidly defend their positions."

If there are two or more registered Republican candidates for County Executive, the Chamber and Bethesda Beat will also host a separate debate for those candidates. In September 2018, both organizations will be hosting a final debate with the County Executive candidates on the general election ballot.

While Chamber members and the public are invited to attend the debate in person, organizers have created a venue to enable county residents and businesses to become involved even *before* the debate. The public is encouraged to submit questions for the candidates through a variety of social media options:

The Greater Bethesda Chamber will accept questions through [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TGBChamber)* (@TGBChamber) using the hashtag #MoCoDebateQ and *Bethesda Beat* will be sending out an e-blast announcing the debate as well as the question submission opportunity. The final list of questions to be posed to the candidates by the moderators, Bethesda Magazine Publisher Steve Hull and Bethesda Beat contributing political writer Andrew Metcalf, will be a combination of public submissions and their own. Questions will *not* be taken from the audience during the debate; however, attendees will have the opportunity to speak with the candidates after the formal debate is adjourned.

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The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

With over 600 members, The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest chambers in Maryland. The Chamber is celebrating its 92nd year of providing advocacy, networking, education and information to its members and the community.

Bethesda Beat

Bethesda Beat is a daily local news briefing on BethesdaMagazine.com. *Bethesda Beat* covers the latest news from Bethesda and the surrounding towns, with a focus on politics, development issues, crime, education, real estate and the dining scene.