

## Section 1: Candidate Information

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- Full Name (Required) Juliet Agocha, Ph.D.
  - District running for (Required) Prince Georges County Council District 4
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## Section 2: Questionnaire

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How will you ensure that Prince George's County government leads by example in hiring, retaining, and promoting employees with disabilities, and what accountability measures will you implement?

Our residents with special abilities are very special to me. I do not call it disability, I call it special ability, because our physical attributes do not define us, our hearts do. I believe Prince George's County government should lead by example by creating a workplace where people with special abilities are truly included, supported, and given opportunities to succeed and lead. This issue is personal to me because I have always been involved in supporting individuals with special abilities in our community. On April 2, 2026, I hosted our 2nd Annual Autism, Down Syndrome, and Hearing Impairment Awareness Event at South Bowie Library because I believe in empowering this community and creating opportunities for every resident to thrive. Through that work, I have met families and individuals who are incredibly talented but often face unnecessary barriers when it comes to employment and advancement.

When elected, I will push for practical changes that make a real difference. For example, I will support making county job applications simple and easy to complete and websites fully accessible for people with visual or hearing impairments. I will advocate for interview accommodations such as sign language interpreters and assistive technology when needed.

I also want to strengthen partnerships with organizations, schools, and workforce programs that support individuals with special abilities so we can create internship and employment pipelines into county government. For example, students with autism or young adults transitioning into the workforce should have opportunities to gain experience through county internships, mentorships, and career development programs.

Retention and promotion matter too. That means ensuring employees with special abilities have equal access to leadership training, promotions, and professional development opportunities — not just entry-level positions.

And accountability is critical to me too. I will support annual reporting on hiring and promotion outcomes, regular accessibility audits of digital services, and mandatory inclusion training for managers and supervisors. This is about building a county government that reflects the values of fairness, dignity, and opportunity for everyone. I am fully committed to that because what impacts you impacts me.

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What comprehensive employment initiatives will you champion to create meaningful career opportunities for county residents with disabilities?

I will champion comprehensive employment initiatives that create real, long-term career opportunities for residents with special abilities — because I believe every person deserves the opportunity to work, grow, and contribute their talents to our community.

When elected, I will support caregivers and families in very practical ways. Many parents, siblings, and friends are carrying the responsibility of care every single day, often with little support. I will sponsor programs that provide financial relief or stipends for family caregivers through existing state and local resources, because the work they do is real work and should be recognized.

I will also advocate for stronger in-home support services that meet people where they are—whether that is help with daily routines, getting to appointments, managing money, building independence, or preparing for work. For many families, this kind of consistent, hands-on support is what allows their loved one with special abilities to stay at home, stay safe, and still grow in independence and dignity.

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What comprehensive, county-wide accessible transportation solutions will you develop beyond existing paratransit services?

When elected, I will push for county-wide transportation solutions that go beyond traditional paratransit and actually reflect how people live, work, and move every day—especially residents with special abilities, seniors, and those with mobility challenges.

For example, in neighborhoods like Bowie, Lanham, and Glenn Dale, I will support on-demand “call-a-ride” microtransit vans that residents can schedule through a phone call or simple app to get to work, medical appointments, or training programs without needing to wait on fixed bus routes that may not serve their area well.

I will also advocate for upgrading existing bus stops so they are fully accessible in real life—not just on paper—meaning ramps that are actually functional for wheelchairs, clearer audio announcements for riders with visual impairments, and safer, well-lit stops for individuals who travel early in the morning or later in the evening.

Another practical step I will take is partnering with local ride-share and community transport providers to offer discounted, wheelchair-accessible rides for people going to essential places like job sites, job training centers, or therapy appointments. For example, a young adult with autism starting a county internship should be able to reliably get to work every day without relying solely on family schedules.

I will ensure transportation is not treated separately from opportunity. If someone has a job offer, training slot, or medical appointment, transportation should already be part of the plan—not an afterthought that causes them to miss it.

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How will you ensure that all new transit infrastructure exceeds ADA minimum standards and truly provides accessible, reliable public transportation?

Accessible transportation is not just about getting from one place to another—it is about independence, dignity, and the ability to fully participate in daily life. When transit works for everyone, people can get to work on time, attend medical appointments without stress, and live with greater freedom and confidence.

When elected, I will ensure that all new transit infrastructure in Prince George's County is built with real-world accessibility at the center, not as an afterthought. I will require that new bus stops, sidewalks, and transit facilities are tested by residents with special abilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs or have visual impairments, before they are officially opened to the public.

I will push for stronger oversight during construction to catch issues early—because something as simple as a steep curb, narrow ramp, or blocked pathway can make a space unusable. In addition, I will support practical design improvements such as properly aligned curb cuts, clearly marked boarding areas, and transit shelters that are truly accessible and safe for everyone.

I will advocate for ongoing accessibility reviews so that our transit system is not only compliant on paper but consistently reliable in practice, ensuring residents can depend on it every single day.

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What specific actions will you take to increase the supply of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing options throughout Prince George's County?

Housing is more than a roof over someone's head—it is the foundation for stability, independence, and opportunity. For residents with special abilities, seniors, and working families in Prince George's County, housing must be affordable, accessible, and connected to daily life in a real way.

When elected, I will take clear, practical steps to expand housing that works for people as they actually live. I will push for county incentives that encourage developers to include real accessibility features in new housing—such as step-free entryways, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms, and first-floor units designed so someone using a wheelchair can live independently without needing modifications after moving in.

I will also advocate for requiring that new affordable housing developments include a set number of fully accessible units from the beginning, so residents are not waiting years or forced into housing that does not meet their needs.

Beyond construction, I will support “connected housing”—for example, by building new houses near bus routes, grocery stores, healthcare providers, and job training centers, so residents do not need a car just to meet basic daily needs.

I will also work with housing authorities and nonprofit partners to expand supportive housing options for individuals who may need extra assistance to live independently, while still preserving dignity, privacy, and choice.

I will ensure we track results—how many accessible units are actually being built and occupied—so this is not just policy on paper, but real housing people can live in today.

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What policy changes will you advocate to improve healthcare access including provider training and accessible medical facilities?

Access to healthcare is only meaningful when people can actually use it—when facilities are physically accessible, providers understand individual needs, and every patient feels respected from the moment they walk in. For residents with special abilities, seniors, and families across Prince George’s County, too many barriers still exist between needing care and receiving it. In my experience working on healthcare eligibility and access under the Affordable Care Act, I saw firsthand how policy decisions directly shape whether people can get care or fall through the cracks. That experience taught me that access is not just about coverage—it is about delivery, dignity, and usability.

When elected, I will advocate for stronger, enforceable accessibility standards in medical facilities. That includes fully wheelchair-accessible exam rooms, adjustable exam tables, accessible medical equipment like scales, and clear, navigable spaces for patients with visual or hearing impairments. These are not extras—they are basic requirements for equitable care.

I will also support mandatory, ongoing training for healthcare providers and front-desk staff focused on disability awareness and communication. For example, ensuring staff know how to properly support patients who are non-verbal, autistic, deaf, or experience sensory sensitivities, so care is delivered with patience, clarity, and respect.

In addition, I will advocate for expanded interpreter services, including American Sign Language and real-time language support, so patients are not forced to rely on family members to communicate their health needs.

Finally, I will push for more community-based and mobile healthcare services that bring care directly into neighborhoods, making it easier for residents who face transportation or mobility challenges to access preventive care and routine services. Healthcare should meet people where they are—physically, emotionally, and respectfully—and I will work to make that the standard in Prince George’s County.

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How will you expand integrated, trauma-informed mental health services specifically designed for children and adults with disabilities?

I work with children in my current position as a Policy Council member, and that experience has shown me how early support and the right environment can completely change a child's trajectory—especially for children with special abilities who need consistent, compassionate, and tailored care.

I will expand integrated, trauma-informed mental health services in a way that is practical and centered on real-life needs, not just systems. That means strengthening school-based and community-based mental health support so children can receive care where they already are—at school, in after-school programs, and in community spaces—without long delays or unnecessary barriers.

I will also advocate for trauma-informed training for all providers working with children and adults with special abilities, so they understand how conditions like autism, developmental delays, or sensory sensitivities can shape how trauma shows up and how support should be delivered. Care must be patient, calm, and adapted to each individual.

In addition, I will support stronger coordination between schools, healthcare providers, and families so services are not fragmented. A child should not have to be repeatedly assessed by multiple systems just to get the help they already qualify for—support should be connected and streamlined.

Finally, I will push for more flexible options like mobile and home-based mental health services, especially for families who face transportation challenges or for individuals who feel more comfortable receiving care in familiar environments.

My focus is simple: early, accessible, and coordinated mental health support that meets children and adults with special abilities where they are and helps them thrive.

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How will you ensure that first responders receive regular training on interacting with and supporting people with diverse disabilities?

Ensuring first responders are properly trained is essential, because in emergencies, communication, patience, and understanding can determine whether a situation is safely resolved. People with special abilities must feel safe and understood when they encounter law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical personnel—not fearful or misunderstood.

I will advocate for mandatory, recurring training for all first responders in Prince George's County that focuses on real-world interactions with individuals with diverse special abilities. This training should not be a one-time module, but an ongoing requirement built into professional development.

For example, officers and EMTs should be trained on how to communicate with individuals who are non-verbal, autistic, deaf, or experiencing sensory overload during emergencies. This includes recognizing behaviors that may be misunderstood, using calm de-escalation techniques, and knowing when to adjust communication methods, such as using visual cues or allowing trusted caregivers to assist.

I will also support scenario-based training, where first responders practice real-life situations—such as responding to a missing autistic child, assisting a wheelchair user during an evacuation, or de-escalating a sensory crisis—so they are prepared beyond theory.

In addition, I will push for partnerships with disability advocates, families, and community organizations to help design and review training programs, ensuring they reflect lived experience and not just policy language.

Finally, I will support accountability measures that track completion of training and reinforce it regularly, so this becomes part of the culture of public safety—not an optional add-on.

Every resident deserves to feel safe when help arrives, and I will work to make sure that safety is consistent, informed, and respectful for all.

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How will you ensure adequate funding and accessibility of programs that help older adults maintain independence when they acquire disabilities?

Our seniors deserve the opportunity to age with dignity, independence, and support in the communities they helped build. Too often, when older adults develop mobility, vision, hearing, or other health challenges later in life, everyday living suddenly becomes much harder. I see this personally through my 76-year-old mother, and it has reinforced my belief that the system should work better for our seniors.

When elected, I will work to ensure adequate funding for programs that help older adults remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible. That includes supporting in-home care services, meal delivery, transportation assistance, home modification programs, and caregiver support. Sometimes simple changes like wheelchair ramps, grab bars, improved lighting, or stair assistance can prevent injuries and allow seniors to continue living comfortably in their own homes.

I will also advocate for stronger coordination between the county, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and senior organizations so families can more easily find and access available services before they reach a crisis point. Too many families do not know what help exists until they are already overwhelmed.

Accessibility will remain a major priority for me. I want programs designed in ways seniors can realistically use, whether through simpler applications, multilingual support, mobile outreach, or bringing services directly into neighborhoods and senior communities instead of expecting older adults to travel long distances.

Finally, I will push for regular oversight and evaluation to ensure funding is actually improving quality of life for seniors and not getting lost in bureaucracy.

Our seniors should never lose their independence simply because support systems are too difficult to navigate. I will work to ensure they receive the care, respect, and resources they deserve.

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What will be your top three legislative priorities to advance disability rights and full inclusion in our county? (Please list and briefly describe your top three priorities.)

A strong and inclusive Prince George's County is one where every resident—regardless of ability—is able to live with dignity, opportunity, and a true sense of belonging. My priorities are focused on removing barriers, expanding access, and ensuring our county works for everyone.

My top three legislative priorities to advance disability rights and full inclusion are:

**Accessible Housing and Transportation**

I will support affordable, accessible housing and reliable transportation that connects residents with special abilities, seniors, and individuals with mobility challenges to jobs, healthcare, schools, and daily services.

**Early Childhood Education and Family Support**

I will advocate for stronger early childhood education programs and ensure funding reaches families raising children with special abilities—work I am already involved in today. Families should not have to navigate this journey alone.

**Healthcare and Mental Health Accessibility**

I will advocate for stronger healthcare accessibility standards, trauma-informed mental health services, and better support systems for families and caregivers. During the Affordable Care Act, I helped oversee healthcare eligibility and access policies, so I understand how policy can directly help people with special abilities succeed and receive the care they deserve.

At the heart of these priorities is a simple belief—I believe our residents deserve the opportunity to be heard and fully participate in the life of our county, no matter their special ability.

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**Consent & Submission**

Consent checkbox (required)

I consent to my responses being shared publicly in full.



Campaign Website or Contact Information:

<https://www.julietagocha.com/>

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