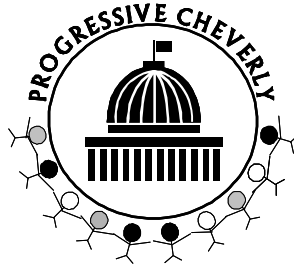


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Donna Edwards, Doyle Niemann, Rushern Baker and Aimee Olivo endorsed by Progressive Cheverly

Cheverly, MD – Progressive Cheverly, a grassroots organization dedicated to building engaged and active citizens, today announced its endorsements of candidates on the ballot for the September 14th Maryland gubernatorial primary election.

Candidates selected by a vote of the membership are U.S. Representative Donna F. Edwards, who represents the 4th Congressional District; Rushern Baker, candidate for Prince George's County Executive; Delegate Doyle Niemann, running for re-election in Maryland's 47th District to the House of Delegates; and Aimee Olivo, a candidate for the newly created 4th District for Prince George's County Board of Education.

"Educating voters on issues and candidates is a core part of our mission," said Progressive Cheverly co-chair Lisa Stand, "but we also believe that it's important to make endorsements in key races where we believe we can and should have an impact – and a voice."

Norman Oslik, co-chair with Ms. Stand, believes the poll presented some tough decisions for the membership. "Many of the candidates in these races are also our friends and neighbors. We have asked for, and for the most part, received, exceptional attention from our elected representatives at all levels. They listen to us, respond to our questions, meet with us and generally work to keep us involved in their decisions. These four candidates that won endorsement have particularly strong track records of accomplishment and leadership consistent with the mission and principles of Progressive Cheverly. "

The candidates were selected for endorsement by a vote of the active membership, exceeding more than 125 Cheverly residents. Members had the opportunity to vote on whether to make an endorsement in each of the contests on the primary ballot, and if so, which candidate the group should endorse. Members were also polled on whether to contribute volunteer organizing power to the candidates' campaigns. Prior to the poll, the group presented forums in April, May and June for candidates for County Executive, House of Delegates and State Senate, respectively.

Progressive Cheverly was an early supporter of Representative Donna Edwards, endorsing her in her first challenge to former Congressman Albert Wynn in 2006. The organization also endorsed Rushern Baker for County Executive in 2006. Board of Education candidate Aimee Olivo is a former co-chair of Progressive Cheverly.

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Donna Edwards, Doyle Niemann, Rushern Baker and Aimee Olivo
endorsed by Progressive Cheverly
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“Since being elected to Congress, Donna Edwards has been a very strong advocate for the 4th Congressional District. I think our members responded to her leadership and tremendous dedication to serving her constituents,” said Oslik.

Regarding the endorsement of Rushern Baker, former Co-Chair Madeleine Golde said, “Rushern Baker has the vision, commitment and integrity to lead Prince George’s County to new heights of achievement. This is a pivotal point in the life of our county, and Rushern will deliver the change we need.”

On the approval of Delegate Niemann, Ms. Golde added, “We are proud to endorse Doyle Niemann. He is a very effective legislator and his accomplishments over eight years in Annapolis have improved the lives of not only those in our district but throughout the county. His legislative initiatives concerning foreclosure, Prince George’s Hospital, and vocational and career training are but a few examples of his willingness and ability to lead.”

Regarding the endorsement of Aimee Olivo for Board of Education, Mr. Oslik said, “Aimee is an extraordinarily effective leader and talented consensus builder. She cares deeply about our community and came up from the grassroots. I am proud that in addition to educating the public about issues and lobbying our elected leaders, that Progressive Cheverly is also building the next generation of leaders for Prince George’s County.”

Progressive Cheverly celebrated the fifth anniversary of its founding this year. Since 2005, Progressive Cheverly has presented monthly forums to educate the public on diverse topics such as campaign finance and election reform, access to healthcare, immigration policy, juvenile justice, sentencing and re-entry issues. The group has lobbied municipal, county, state and federal elected representatives on issues such as the future of Prince George’s Hospital Center, climate protection, and marriage equality for LGBT Marylanders, and has worked on local initiatives to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, fight environmental injustice and support community-friendly economic development.

Progressive Cheverly strives to create “Democracy from the Ground Up.” More information about Progressive Cheverly is available at www.progressivecheverly.org

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