

## Don Engel Platform:

As we enter the last year of the Bush presidency, the national campaigns will provide a unique opportunity to reinvigorate and reinvent the Baltimore County Young Democrats (BCYD). We must take back the White House, and we must build ourselves a sustainable club in the process. As BCYD President, I will work with the club to ensure that some of its members are amongst the Maryland delegation to the Democratic National Convention. We must also work to ensure that new voters participate in the primary and general.

The Baltimore County Young Democrats should both provide community and serve the community. It should provide opportunities for both education and political involvement. Therefore, as BCYD President, I would work with other leaders in the group to provide four monthly activities - a social event, a community service opportunity, a political activity, and a viewing of a movie about politics and/or Baltimore.

I was born in Baltimore County and am a product of the community and its public schools. As BCYD President, I would use my familiarity with the area to provide a more welcoming social environment for young people who are newer to living here, and would work to improve the connectedness between people and their political representation.

I have served BCYD as Communications Director for the last few months, and have not missed a single BCYD event since joining. I manage the voter file for the county's official party structure, the Central Committee. On behalf of the Central Committee, I am developing a precinct captain structure for the county, and would like to involve fellow young democrats as precinct captains. I have planned informational events and created targeted mailings for the Towson-area Central Baltimore County Democratic Club. I will be developing the website for the Northwest Baltimore County Democratic Club. I have attended meetings of two other regional county clubs, and will be doing more of the same to develop the precinct captain structure. As BCYD President, I would leverage this involvement to involve young democrats from the entire county.

Beyond my work with county clubs, I know politics and policy. Since completing my PhD a year and a half ago, I have been advising the U.S. Congress on science and technology. I have strong relationships with several congressmen, many congressional staffers, and many presidential campaign staffers. Over the last decade, I have worked on many campaigns, from local and mayoral to congressional and statewide. I was one of two people who built a novel web and

telephone system used by the Maryland Coordinated Campaign last election. This campaign gave us a new Democratic Governor and a new Democratic Senator. Working on my PhD at UPenn, I served as a local elected official in Philadelphia in two capacities - as a Judge of Election and as an elected party leader. I organized hundreds of people to run for local offices in Philadelphia, drawing heavily from several college Democratic clubs, from the Philly Young Dems, and from other Democratic groups. I was a leader in and an active member of many groups, rarely missing a meeting of Philly for Change, Philly Young Dems, UPenn College Dems, the Democratic 27th Ward Committee, and Neighborhood Networks. As a master's student at Brown, I was a Deputy Campaign Manager on the first successful campaign of David Cicilline, who remains mayor to this day.

As BCYD President, I would bring extensive experience with campaigns, the county, and its clubs. Most importantly, I would bring energy, which is urgently required. For the first time, those turning 18 between the primary and general can vote in the primary - on February 12th. The first project I would lead as President is to immediately alert these 17-year-olds of the January 22nd registration deadline. I would also insure there are four events each month, including January, and would work with the other officers to announce, within a week of the election, a schedule for the first quarter.

The open seat in the White House makes this year, and this BCYD election, far more important to the group than has been the case in living memory. I have the experience and the energy to make this a year to remember, and I hope to have your support on January 10th.