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Mark Edelson Announces Campaign for Delegate, District 46

Community leader and Democratic Central Committee Member seeks to succeed Delegate Brooke Lierman, build upon her legacy of connectivity and sustainability

BALTIMORE, MD – Today, Mark Edelson, a community leader, Democratic organizer, attorney, and educator announced his campaign for Delegate, District 46. Edelson will be seeking the open seat vacated by Delegate Brooke Lierman, as she has declared her candidacy for Comptroller of Maryland. Edelson will focus his campaign on building a more connected, equitable, sustainable, and safe 46th District.

“I am excited and humbled to announce my campaign for Delegate in District 46,” said Edelson. “We are losing an amazing local champion in Delegate Brooke Lierman and I wish her success in her statewide effort. It is my intention to build on her legacy by focusing on our communities first, while leading forward looking advocacy efforts that better connect our neighborhoods, provide equal opportunities for all Baltimoreans, and ensure our city is a desirable and sustainable place to live. I look forward to engaging with communities in southeast and south Baltimore around our vision for District 46.”

Since 2018, Edelson has served as the President of the Canton Community Association (CCA), one of the largest community associations in Baltimore City. During his tenure, he has led many successful community efforts like the launch of the Canton Farmers Market and lighting and safety improvements in O’Donnell Square. Recently, Edelson brought together a diverse group of community members, historians, elected officials, and anti-racism professionals to create the Canton anti-Racism Alliance. As a result of many community conversations, the Alliance organized a community petition, garnering over 1,000 signatures, and directed letters to Mayor Young and recently Mayor Scott, with the support of state and local elected officials, urging the removal of the statue of Captain John O’Donnell in Canton.

A creative local advocate, Edelson, in conjunction with Bikemore and a team of transit advocates, led a first-of-its-kind legal challenge to successfully prevent the then Mayor Catherine Pugh Administration from demolishing the Potomac Street protected cycle track in Canton. The team sought and won a Temporary Restraining Order against the city, ensuring that communities across southeast Baltimore would continue to have access to the protected bicycle facility and the Downtown Bike Network without disruption. During the case, residents submitted over 445 messages in support of the cycle track to the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BDOT). As a result of the creative and decisive legal action, an amended plan was reached with the city, protecting access to a critical piece of equitable transportation infrastructure.

Born in South Africa, Edelson immigrated to Atlanta with his family at age fifteen. The Edelson family faced immense emotional and financial pressures in the early years of their new life in America. Upon their arrival, the family struggled to overcome economic insecurity and cultural adjustments. At an early age, Edelson worked in a variety of jobs throughout high school to help his family make ends meet. The experience of growing up in post-apartheid South Africa and witnessing the transformative leadership of Nelson Mandela, merged with the daily hardships of life for new immigrants in America, forged

Edelson's desire to pursue a career in law and public service. If elected, he would be one of only four foreign-born immigrants currently serving in the House of Delegates.

Edelson moved to Baltimore to attend the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law and has made his home in the Canton community ever since.

In 2016, Edelson was appointed to the Democratic State Central Committee for District 46 and was elected to the role in 2018, currently serving as Vice-Chair.

Edelson also serves as an adjunct professor at Goucher College, teaching a pre-law course to undergraduate students titled Law and Society.

For more information on the campaign and Edelson's platform, please visit www.ElectEdelson.com.*

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*Website will be live on March 25

Mark Edelson is a community leader, civic-minded attorney, educator, Democratic organizer, and immigrant. He is seeking the Democratic nomination for Delegate in District 46.

By Authority: Friends of Mark Edelson, Greg Arbogast, Treasurer