

MICHAEL SOLOMON

SMOB CANDIDATE

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My name is Michael Solomon. I'm a 17 year-old junior at Springbrook High School in Montgomery County, Maryland. I am a committed student-advocate who has spent years fighting to elevate student voices across all levels of government, and I want to be your SMOB.

I serve as an Education Policy Deputy for the **Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association** - a position through which I've been able to expand my knowledge in education policy by publishing policy papers on issues like ESOL inclusion and school boundary lines, creating summaries of the MCPS budget for my peers, and testifying in front of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

I am a founding member and Co-President of **MoCo Students For Change**, a student-advocacy group that got its start by mobilizing a walkout of over 5,000 students from the greater Washington, D.C. area in protest of gun violence in March of 2018. Since then, we have led multiple voter registration drives, town halls, art campaigns, state-wide lobbying initiatives and many events in accordance with **March For Our Lives**. MoCo Students For Change is also leading the push for diversifying Montgomery County's public schools by revisiting our school boundaries and assessing facility utilization. Earlier this year, our organization successfully lobbied the Maryland General Assembly to implement three major gun reform laws that are working to save lives today, and we're currently pushing the Maryland State Legislature to consider a bill that would require voter registration drives annually in every Maryland high school.

For the past three years, I have served as the **Editor-in-chief of The Blueprint**, Springbrook High School's award-winning newspaper. In this role, I lead a team of over 30 staff writers - where I've gained invaluable leadership and organizational skills. As an intern for Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD), I was able to experience the functions of our federal government firsthand, which solidified my commitment to public service.

If chosen to serve as your SMOB, I'll make it my mission to address the issues that students care about. I promise to fight to the **school-to-prison pipeline**, be a fierce advocate for **improved school funding** and be a voice for further **accessibility to technology** in order to advance a **21st-century education** for all students. I will create a **robust advisory council** comprised of student voices from all over the state of Maryland, and make it a priority to **visit all 24 of our amazing counties**.

When we are able to have a student voice on the Board of Education, we have the chance to cultivate a diverse collection of perspectives through which we can push for a system that works for all of us. If given the opportunity to serve as Maryland's SMOB, I will make sure to listen to those voices and ensure that the students of Maryland have a seat at the table. State SMOB is more than just one person, it is a collective of voices that represents our student body. The decisions of the State Board of Education have an impact on students more than any other constituency, so the existence of this position is essential to the State Board of Education's ability to make informed policy decisions.