



*Community organizer, Clean energy expert, Central Jersey native*  
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**LETTER OF INTEREST**  
**Jay Vaingankar**  
**Candidate for Congress (CD-12)**

February 23, 2026

Dear Middlesex Democrats,

I write with great enthusiasm to express my interest in seeking the endorsement of the Middlesex County Democratic Organization in my campaign for Congress in the 12th District.

I am a 28-year-old former White House and Department of Energy official, and I'm proud to be a Democrat. In Congress, I would fight for working families in New Jersey and continue the progressive legacy of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. The 12th District deserves a Member of Congress with experience in Washington and the energy to deliver for our communities on day one.

I believe primaries are good for our party. They bring out fresh ideas and build strong organizing infrastructure. As a community organizer by training, I look forward to traveling across all 32 towns in the 12th Congressional District to listen to voters and hopefully earn their support. I'm honored by the enthusiasm this campaign has received so far, raising over \$154,000 in the first three weeks after declaring, and I look forward to continuing that momentum and to continuing to build infrastructure for our party, no matter the results of this primary election.

The enthusiasm for our the campaign so far – more than doubling the fundraising of all but one of the elected officials in this race – shows that our campaign is in the strongest position to ensure our next Member of Congress is a progressive who reflects the diversity of the district. Below, you'll find my biography, policy priorities, and resume. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thanks so much,  
Jay

Jay Vaingankar Candidate for  
Congress (CD-12)  
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## MY BIOGRAPHY

I'm Jay Vaingankar, a 28-year-old former White House and Department of Energy official running for Congress in New Jersey. My parents – both immigrants from India – raised me in the diverse Mercer County, where I became fluent in Spanish. My upbringing taught me that if you work hard and uplift others, you can build a better life for your family, no matter what you look like or where you come from.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania on Zoom in 2020, I became a field organizer on the Biden campaign, where I built the largest suburban voter contact operation in modern campaign history – thanks to thousands of Central Jersey volunteers. Because of those efforts, President Biden appointed me to the White House and the Department of Energy, where I helped implement the largest clean energy investment in history, including millions of dollars to New Jersey.

After years of weekend Amtraks from DC, I moved back home full-time to work in community solar, to lower energy bills for families in New Jersey.

## WHY I'M RUNNING

I'm running for Congress because our politics needs new energy.

The old-school playbook doesn't work anymore, and a new generation needs to fill the vacuum of leadership. We have the energy to tackle the problems of tomorrow, like AI and climate change. As a former White House and DOE official, I helped implement the largest clean energy investment in history. I traveled across the United States and across New Jersey helping state and local government leaders take advantage of tens of millions of dollars of clean energy tax credits. But no matter where my journey took me around the country, I always took Amtrak home on the weekends to the community where I was born and raised.

Our country is facing a crisis of leadership. Trump is taking away our healthcare and his masked deportation force is ravaging our communities, and the only thing Democrats in Washington can do is write strongly-worded letters. It's time to send a fighter to Washington who won't roll over every time Trump threatens a government shutdown.

I'm a son of Central Jersey, and my campaign is powered by volunteers and donors from every town in the county. As the only candidate in the race who's worked in D.C., I know how to stand up to Trump and to navigate the federal government to secure funding for our community.

This is a campaign that is community-centered, not about special interests. I'm here to tackle our affordability crisis to make sure the next generation can afford to live and raise a family in Central Jersey. I'm running because it's time to bring new energy into our politics. I hope you'll join me in this journey ahead.



## TOP POLICY ISSUES

Above all else, I'm running to tackle our affordability crisis by cutting costs and investing in good-paying jobs, so we can give every Jersey family a fair shot.

- **Invest in clean energy**, to create jobs, protect our climate, and keep utility bills low;
- **Build more houses**, so people my age can afford to live where they grew up;
- **Expand our health care**, so a medical emergency won't bankrupt a family;
- **Abolish ICE** and build a pathway to citizenship, so our neighbors can stop living in fear;
- **Reform SALT**, to end double-taxation on New Jersey families;
- **Ban assault weapons**, so my generation is the last to experience a school shooting;
- **End the Trump Tariffs**, to lower prices for families and small business owners;
- **Protect reproductive rights**, so our daughters have the same rights as their mothers;
- **Expand Amtrak**, to ease our commutes and get more cars off the Turnpike

# JAY VAINGANKAR

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### SOLAR LANDSCAPE

*Director of Policy and Market Strategy*

Asbury Park, New Jersey  
March 2025 – November 2025

Drove strategy and policy initiatives to expand new business opportunities for the largest commercial rooftop solar developer in the U.S. Led the company's federal policy agenda to fight the Trump Administration's proposed solar excise tax and protect safe-harboring for rooftop solar. Worked with state power authorities to successfully expand community solar procurement. Served as a liaison to trade associations, utilities, municipal leaders, and industry partners to advance policy reforms and community solar adoption.

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

*Secretary's Office of Policy*

Advised the Secretary, White House, and Congress on climate and energy policy issues such as infrastructure, job creation, supply chain resiliency, and AI data centers, and state/local relations. Received and delivered Top Secret security briefings. As a surrogate for the Secretary, travelled across the country to educate mayors, governor's offices, and business leaders on how to take advantage of federal clean energy cash grants.

Washington, District of Columbia

October 2022 – January 2025

### THE WHITE HOUSE

*Office of Management & Administration*

Served under the White House's chief operations officer, responsible for operations, personnel, technology, and security for the White House and over 3,000 employees. Managed logistics and internal communications for the 34-person team. Coordinated with the White House Medical Unit and Chief Information Officer to oversee stringent testing and vaccination protocols to protect the President and Vice President from COVID exposure.

Washington, District of Columbia

January 2021 – October 2022

### BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT

*Field Organizer*

Increased Democratic presidential margin in Bucks County, a Philadelphia swing suburb, from +0.8% (2016) to +4.2% (2020), to deliver Pennsylvania for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris during the pandemic. Managed and recruited 120+ volunteers and staff, to conduct tens of thousands of voter contacts per week.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania

June 2020 – November 2020

### CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS COLLECTION ACT (S. 3191)

*Co-Founder, Author, and Legislative Director*

Wrote S. 3191 with Sen. Doug Jones and Sen. Kamala Harris to expedite release of government records for unsolved, racially-motivated murders. The bill passed the House 376-6 and the Senate by unanimous consent, and was signed into law. Persuaded a bipartisan group of 24 co-sponsors and secured \$2M in appropriations.

Hightstown, New Jersey

May 2016 – May 2020

## BOARDS & VOLUNTEERING

- **Coalition for Peace Action**, Princeton, NJ, *BoardMember, 2025-Present (On Leave of Absence)*
- **Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice** Princeton, NJ, *BoardMember, 2025-Present*
- **SAATH National**, *Advisory Board Member, 2025-Present*
- **2024 Democratic National Convention**, *Delegate from Mercer County*
- **Mercer County Democratic Committee**, *Committee Member, 2023-Present*

## EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School & Huntsman Program)**

B.S. in Economics & B.A. in International Studies

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Class of 2020*

**Hightstown High School**

High School Diploma (Student Body President)

Hightstown, New Jersey

*Class of 2016*

## MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: Spanish, Hindi | Hobbies & Interests: Brunch, Solidcore, energy policy, NBA basketball