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D.C. VOTER'S GUIDE



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) and the Washington Jewish Week (WJW) have teamed up to offer you this voting guide for the District of Columbia's June 16 Primary Elections.

The JCRC/WJW DC Voter's Guide was compiled by sending survey questions to each candidate in a contested race for their party's nomination and who has met minimum requirements to be on the ballot. Contested races include the Democratic primary for Mayor, Attorney General, two At-Large Councilmembers, Wards 1, 5, and 6, and Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. While there are candidates for each of these positions from other parties (Republican, Independent, DC Statehood/Green, and Libertarian), none of those candidates have challengers in the primary election, so will be their party's nominee in the general election and are not included in this guide.

We have provided each candidate's responses in full. We have only included candidates who responded to the questionnaire. Contact Rachel Feinstein at the JCRC at rfeinstein@jcouncil.org with questions or for additional information about this guide.

For the first time, DC will use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in eligible contests with three or more candidates. RCV is a voting method in which voters rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, third choice, 4th choice, 5th choice).

DC began mailing ballots to registered voters on May 11. Beginning on May 22, mail ballot drop boxes will be available for use through June 16. Early voting at in-person voter centers begins June 8 and ends on June 14. More information about voting locations, mail-in ballot instructions, same day registration, and more can be found at the following links.

DC Board of Elections – Primary Election 2026

<https://dcboe.org/elections/2026-elections>

DC Board of Elections – Vote Center Locator Tool

<https://dcboe.org/voters/find-out-where-to-vote/vote-center-locator-tool>

DC Board of Elections – Mail-In Ballot Drop Box Locations

<https://dcboe.org/voters/find-out-where-to-vote/mail-ballot-drop-box-locations>

DC Board of Elections – Election Day Vote Centers

<https://dcboe.org/voters/find-out-where-to-vote/election-day-vote-centers>

DC Board of Elections – Mail-In Ballot Instructions

<https://dcboe.org/voters/casting-your-vote/mail-ballot-request>

DC Board of Elections – Early Vote Centers

<https://earlyvoting.dcboe.org/>

DC Board of Elections – Ranked Choice Voting Information

<https://dcboe.org/rcv>

D.C. Voter's Guide

Candidates for Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

Kinney Zalesne



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

1. Protecting DC's right to self-govern. The people of DC deserve the same democratic rights as

every other American. In Congress, I will fight federal interference in our local laws and budgets, push for statehood, and work with regional leaders to build the political pressure needed to secure full autonomy and representation. 2. Making our city more affordable and economically secure. Too many families are being priced out of the city they love, and this problem has only been exacerbated by the DOGE assault on federal agencies. I will focus on expanding access to reskilling and job training, building more affordable housing, and bringing federal investment home to support good-paying jobs, small businesses, and neighborhood economic growth. 3. Delivering real results on public safety and opportunity. Safety and opportunity go hand in hand. I will advocate for federal resources that support effective violence prevention, youth programs, and community-based services, while also investing in education and pathways to college and careers so every resident has a fair shot at success.

As a member of Congress with limited voting power, what will be your strategy to influence legislation and policies impacting the District?

The Delegate role requires influence built through relationships, powerful communication skills, and relentless focus on results. Over the 30 years of my career, I have built strong working relationships across government, business, and the nonprofit sector, including with leaders in Maryland and Virginia. I have proposed to regional Congressmembers that we launch a Capital Caucus, and they have expressed support for coming together around our shared priorities. My strategy is to use those existing relationships to move regional issues forward in a coordinated way. With a Capital Caucus, we can push for stronger investment in Metro, highways and bridges; better stewardship of our shared parks and federal spaces, and a unified approach to economic growth and public safety. When we act together as a region, our voice is stronger and more difficult to ignore. That same approach will help build the broader national support needed to secure full representation and statehood for DC.

Please explain your position on the US-Israel relationship.

The US-Israel relationship is a strong and important partnership rooted in shared democratic values, indispensable security cooperation, and deep connections between our communities. For many American Jews, Israel is tied to family, history, and identity. That connection is also personal to me, shaped by my own longstanding involvement in Jewish communal life and years of engagement with Israel. I support keeping this partnership strong, including working together on security, economic growth, and technological innovation. I will focus on maintaining bipartisan support for the relationship and making sure Jewish communities here at home feel safe and supported.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I take the safety of Jewish organizations and other communities facing hate very seriously. Antisemitism and hate-motivated threats are rising, and we must respond with unwavering strength. I will push for strong federal funding for programs like the Nonprofit Security Grant Program so synagogues, schools, and community groups can make needed security upgrades. We also need better coordination among law enforcement, community leaders, and federal partners so threats are addressed early. DC should have more control over its own public safety tools, including the National Guard, so we can respond quickly in true emergencies. Organizations at risk must feel safe and be able to serve their communities without fear.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

I will stand firm against federal interference in DC's local laws and budget and continue pushing for full self-governance and statehood. At the same time, I will use the relationships I have built across Congress and the region to get real results for our city. My focus is on protecting DC's autonomy while securing federal funding, infrastructure investment, and public safety support that benefits residents. It is not about choosing between principle and pragmatism. It is about doing both so DC can govern itself and still get what it needs to succeed.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I will not turn my back on Jewish organizations or any community because of political pressure or labels. For many Jewish residents, support for a Jewish and democratic state of Israel is tied to identity, history, family, and lived experience. I respect that deeply. My job as Delegate is to

represent people, not to decide which communities are acceptable to engage with. I will always work with organizations that are acting in good faith to strengthen democracy, community, and coexistence. Walking away from dialogue only makes division worse. My approach is to lead with principle, respect, and a commitment to bringing people together rather than pushing them apart.

Robert White



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Today, more than ever, our right to the same democratic principles on which our country was

founded are under attack and being revered. Defending democracy is fundamental. DC residents still lack full representation in Congress, and our local laws and budget are subject to federal interference. The rising cost of housing, childcare, and everyday expenses is putting real strain on families. This while federal funds are being cut, federal jobs and related employment disappearing, federal buildings being relocated out of the district, leaving our downtown desolate and in need of creative reimagination. Public safety and community trust are also essential. We have national guard patrolling in a menacing display of firepower, masked federal agents terrorizing neighborhoods and out of control spending being devoted to these destructive and counterproductive purposes. Residents deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods while knowing their rights are respected. These priorities are interconnected and focused on ensuring that DC remains a safe, inclusive, and economically strong community for all who call it home.

As a member of Congress with limited voting power, what will be your strategy to influence legislation and policies impacting the District?

This seat has been used effectively by our Congresswoman, Eleanor Holmes Norton, as a bully pulpit to elevate the plight of DC and its residents. I will use the visibility of the office to elevate DC's issues nationally, including defending home rule and advancing statehood. Influence in Congress is built through persistence, trust, and strategic engagement, and I will use every available tool to deliver results for the District.

Please explain your position on the US-Israel relationship.

The US-Israel relationship is currently problematic because neither President Trump nor Prime Minister Netanyahu are trustworthy leaders. Israel's disproportionate actions in Gaza have squandered both American and worldwide public confidence. A generation of not just Palestinians but many well beyond appear to have been

radicalized to condemn, even hate Israel and unfortunately that has extended to their attitudes toward Jews, worldwide. As ordinary Israelis routinely duck in and out of bomb shelters and fear for their lives and homes, it is not possible to see how Israel is safer. Unfortunately, the result of escalated Israeli aggression and far right policies, has also given rise to emboldened acts of antisemitism, and therefore Jews across the globe don't seem to be safer either. I believe that the path to a long-term peace in the middle east, requires a two-state solution, something which the current Israeli government has rejected.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

First and foremost, I believe that all persecuted peoples and vulnerable populations deserve the highest degree of protection. We have witnessed a sharp upsurge in antisemitic attacks which require our condemnation and vigilance to guard against and root out of our communities. As our nation's capitol, we should remain on heightened alert against what may be to some a symbolic attack on Jewish people and institutions – which should feel like an attack on all of us. I feel a great debt to many in the Jewish community who bravely stood up for and gave of their safety, resources and even their lives to fight alongside Black Americans to overcome racial prejudice and persecution. The Civil Rights movement attained much of its success because Jews and Black people came together in ways that we should remember and continue to appreciate. It pains me that in many ways, today, we, as separate communities, do not seem to share the same solidarity and sense of common cause. It will be my everlasting devotion to help overcome our differences, often fueled by misconception and unfounded fear. It is a priority of mine to build bridges between our shared histories of oppression and persecution. We have so much more in common than what often seems to divide us. Hate toward Jews persists and has no place in our collective consciences. We can talk about the governmental resources that could be applied, but through example, education and permanent diligence, we have a moral obligation to fight hate and promote peaceful coexistence toward a stronger community that will make our children and their children proud.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

Protecting DC's autonomy is a core responsibility of the Delegate, but it must be done through strategic engagement as well as firm advocacy. My approach is to be both a strong defender of the District's rights and an effective partner when collaboration can deliver results for residents. When federal actions threaten DC's home rule, budget autonomy, or local laws, I will be clear and direct in opposition. The District should not be subject to interference from officials who are not accountable to our residents, and I will use every available tool—coalition building,



legislative advocacy, and public engagement—to defend our ability govern ourselves. At the same time, there are many areas where working constructively with federal leadership is essential. The federal government plays a major role in DC’s economy, infrastructure, and public safety, and productive relationships can help secure resources and advance shared priorities. Balancing these responsibilities requires judgment. I will work collaboratively where it benefits DC residents, but I will not compromise on the District’s fundamental right to self-government. My responsibility is to ensure that DC is treated fairly, that our voice is heard, and that our autonomy is protected.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I won’t be bullied or told who to reach out to, listen to and work with. My experience and record demonstrate an open door to all and a desire to engage in dialogue with people and causes from all points of view. I will continue to respect everyone who has an interest in creating a stronger more productive and accessible community both here in the District of Columbia and beyond.

Trent Holbrook



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

D.C. statehood / D.C. home rule, protecting federal employees, and affordability are my top priorities.

I spent the last eight years side-by-side with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, including serving as her Senior Legislative Counsel, on every major issue facing D.C.’s future. For example, when I started in Congresswoman Norton’s office, the D.C. statehood bill had been voted on once in American history, in 1993, and it failed two-to-one. I worked to make D.C. statehood the national issue that it is and that it deserves to be. I got over 100 national organizations to endorse the bill. I worked with those organizations, D.C. residents, and others, and took the bill from losing two-to-one to passing in the House of Representatives – twice. The second time, every single House Democrat voted “YES” for D.C. statehood. I have defended D.C. against every anti-home rule attack in Congress. I have fought the illegal firings of our federal employees, and fought for pay raises for them, as well as introduced complex legislation to improve their retirement benefits. I will work to ensure that D.C. gets all the federal funding to which it is entitled, continuing my tireless efforts on that issue over the past eight years.

As a member of Congress with limited voting power, what will be your strategy to influence legislation and policies impacting the District?

I know how to deliver for the District as D.C.’s

delegate for Congress by using every lever of federal power to advance D.C.’s priorities. Despite not having the vote on final passage of bills, Congresswoman Norton was consistently ranked as one of the most effective members of Congress by academics who research this issue, and I am proud of the work I contributed to that distinction. For example, we were able to use the National Defense Authorization Act to pass through the House for the first time ever the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act, which, if it had been finally enacted, would have been the greatest expansion of home rule authority since enactment of the Home Rule Act in 1973. We used that opportunity to argue for why we needed the bill, and, also, why we need statehood. I would seek to serve on the House Oversight Committee since that committee has jurisdiction over most D.C. issues. I am an expert on that committee. I know the members, I know the staff, and I know the procedure of that committee. Even without a floor vote, Congresswoman Norton was instrumental in impacting legislation moving through Congress, and I will use those same tactics, including, for example, offering amendments in Committee and on the House floor through the Rules Committee amendment process, and elsewhere. I will use the appropriations process, just as I did with Congresswoman Norton, to secure federal funding for D.C., and to fight anti-home rule riders.

Please explain your position on the US-Israel relationship.

I strongly support the state of Israel and, of course, its right to exist. The October 7th attacks left an indelible impression on each one of us, and Israel has a right to defend itself. With that said, this is amongst the most complicated international issues facing us. I believe that President Netanyahu has squandered the goodwill of the world and the American people, and he has not been a good personal ally to the American people. He has inserted himself even into our domestic politics, essentially endorsing one political party. That is unacceptable. President Trump has made the situation even worse. Too much of this administration’s work seems focused on placating the Religious Right at the expense of pursuing rational foreign policy. We need allies, and we also need to be able to challenge those allies when they make mistakes or go too far. It is also unacceptable to witness the rise of antisemitism and anti-Israeli hate domestically and internationally. We must seek balance in the long run to solve these important and difficult issues. Issues of foreign policy, including whether or not to send troops or resources into war, is one of the most consequential decisions a nation can make, and it is outrageous that the 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia have absolutely no say over those issues in Congress. Our residents have fought and died in every single war since the nation’s founding. We deserve that say and we deserve statehood.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I support the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and worked with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to seek increases in funding for that program, including through specific requests in the annual appropriations process I also worked with Congresswoman Norton to support,

including through federal appropriations, such other anti-hate programs as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program and the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act. I also support a local prosecutor for D.C. Right now, most of our crimes are prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney who is unaccountable to District residents. I worked with Congresswoman Norton to introduce legislation to create a local prosecutor’s office for D.C. residents and to get the equivalent of senatorial courtesy for the nomination of the U.S. Attorney when President Biden was in office, and I worked with her on choosing that nominee. During President Trump’s first term, we were critical of the U.S. Attorney when she was not doing enough to prosecute hate crimes, including against the trans community, and helped plan a forum for that community to raise their concerns.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

I will always support D.C.’s autonomy. For the past eight years, I led the efforts in Congress to fight every single anti-home rule attack, whether from Congress or from the president. I led the efforts with Congresswoman Norton when President Trump illegally attempted to federalize the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). I have drafted and managed such important legislation as the District of Columbia Police Home Rule Act, to make clear the president does not have the authority to federalize MPD, and the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act, which would give the mayor the same control over the D.C. National Guard as the governors of states and territories with Guards have. I worked to get the National Guard bill passed through the House for the first time in U.S. history. If it had been fully enacted, it would have been the largest expansion of home rule authority since the Home Rule Act of 1973. I will also make D.C. statehood my top priority. That is the only way to stop these attacks. I worked with Congresswoman Norton to get over 100 national organizations to endorse the bill, to get a record number of cosponsors on the bill, and to pass the D.C. statehood bill through the House for the first time in American history – and did so twice. I know how to lead on these important efforts and am the only candidate with this important federal experience.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I am a strong supporter of Israel. While I strongly disagree with so many actions of the Netanyahu government, Israel itself is our partner and has the right to exist and to defend itself. Nobody should disagree with that. I have worked with countless organizations over the years, including, just as a few examples, J Street, AIPAC, CAIR, and the National Coalition of Jewish Women, while working with Congresswoman Norton, bringing so many perspectives to these and other issues impacting our communities. These include groups I virtually always agree with and some with which I rarely see eye-to-eye. This is crucial to the decision-making process of a member of Congress – and I know this because I have been so instrumental in that process for the District of Columbia for the

past eight years. I will meet with even with groups I strongly disagree with, just as I have for the past eight years. We must come, listen, and find common ground where possible, while standing true to our core values.

Brooke Pinto



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

The last year has proven that DC needs the protection of statehood more than ever. Congress can override laws passed by DC’s elected government, including protections for our LGBTQ residents. We’re living through a housing crisis. I’ve championed housing vouchers and bridge housing on the Council, and in Congress I’ll fight for federal resources to supercharge building new units and tackling costs. The country’s affordability crisis is hitting our communities hard – and families who have called Washington home for generations increasingly cannot afford a home in our neighborhoods. We need an economy that actually works for working people – and we need a government that helps ensure that families can afford a home, find a good paying job, and retire with dignity.

As a member of Congress with limited voting power, what will be your strategy to influence legislation and policies impacting the District?

There’s a new opportunity for our Delegate to exercise power differently. But it is not the same as having no power. Committee work is where legislation actually happens. Most bills are won or lost before they ever reach the floor. The Delegate has full voting rights in committee - and can chair Committees, and drive appropriations to our city. That means that we need a Delegate who knows how to build coalitions and drive change. Coalition-building is the job. I’ve done this on the Council — passing every bill I’ve done has required aligning colleagues who came to the table with very different priorities. In Congress, I’ll apply the same approach.

Please explain your position on the US-Israel relationship.

Promoting stability in the Middle East is not only a moral cause - it is about protecting our homeland security. As Washingtonians acutely aware of the threat of terrorism on our monuments, places of work, and homes – our national security must be a top concern for DC’s representative in Congress. This is why I believe the United States must take an active role in bringing peace to the region. There’s no question this is a complex conflict. But let’s recognize several core tenets in handling this conflict: Israel’s sovereignty is unquestioned and it has an undeniable right to defend itself and its citizens. Because Israel is a sovereign nation, it must also abide by the Law of Armed Conflict. It is clear that Israel’s actions in Palestine have disproportionately targeted civilians, creating

a humanitarian crisis that threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of peaceful Palestinian families. Hamas is a terrorist organization. And Israel is well within its rights to target and eliminate Hamas - and the elimination of Hamas is a core strategic interest of the United States. Israel exists in a dangerous region surrounded by enemies, including Iran and Iranian-backed Hezbollah. I want to be clear - the current military operations in the Gaza Strip have failed to meet international humanitarian standards. The use of disproportionate and indiscriminate force has led to immense and unnecessary civilian suffering, which not only violates international law but also fuels the cycle of violence, undermines the standing of Israel - and the United States - in the international community, and ultimately narrows an already tenuous path towards peace and stability in the Middle East and Central Asia. We also need to recognize the growing anti-semitic movement, which is rearing its head on both the right and the left. The rise in hate crimes, including attacks on synagogues this month, need to be met by unconditional condemnation by all our elected leaders.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

We're living through a rising wave of hate crimes directed toward the Jewish community in our city and across the country. After October 7th and conversations with faith leaders across the city, I worked to increase security and threat assessments around synagogues, houses of worship, and embassies across the District. I created a first of its kind nonprofit and religious grant program to offer increased and flexible security costs that has become a model for other jurisdictions. Antisemitism is rising sharply, and the threat is not hypothetical. We saw it in DC when two Israeli embassy staffers were killed outside the Capital Jewish Museum, we saw it in an attack on a synagogue in Michigan last week. We see it in the vandalism, the harassment, and the threats directed at Jewish institutions. As Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, I've pushed for the District to take hate crimes seriously at every stage. In Congress, I'll fight to protect and expand federal nonprofit security grant programs, particularly the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which provides critical funding for physical security at institutions facing elevated risk. The current federal environment has created real uncertainty about these programs, and I will push back against any effort to defund them.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

I think we need a member of Congress who can play both offense and defense. We need someone who can spot the incoming threats to our city from the Administration, and work with city leadership and Congress to mitigate them. And we need a leader who can play offense, and see opportunities for meaningful collaboration and strategize on how to take advantage of them. During the city's Medicaid fight, in which Republicans sought to slash our Medicaid allocation, I created a pressure campaign to influence Republican members and share how these attacks on our city's hospitals would devastate all our residents. This is the same approach I'll take to congress every single day.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that

support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

It's extraordinarily clear that Jewish communities across the country and in the District are enduring a wave of hate crimes that have made it harder than ever to openly practice their faith. I believe the tidal wave of hatred, fueled by elements of our own government, has underlined the need for a Jewish homeland like nothing else could. I'll always have an open door for Jewish organizations like JCRC, and reject calls from those who would shut those doors. Over the last several years, I have faced consistent pressure to walk away from Jewish organizations and at every turn I have rejected that call and stood as the strongest ally to JCRC and with our Jewish neighbors and organizations. I will continue to be a champion and a partner.

Greg Jaczko



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

First, DC Statehood is the essential foundation for the protection and freedom every District resident and organization deserves. Until we secure full representation, I will fight for the immediate status-correction our residents need—starting with legislation to exempt DC taxpayers and businesses from federal income taxes. If we are denied a vote in Congress, we should not be forced to fund it. This aligns us with every other US territory and provides an immediate economic boost to our community. Second, the federal government is the lifeblood of the District's economy, yet our public servants are under constant threat of political retaliation. I will be a fierce advocate for our federal agencies, fighting to ensure the civil service is revitalized, protected, and strictly apolitical. This includes ensuring that our government remains a safe and inclusive environment for all, where antisemitism and all forms of hate are decisively addressed. We must protect the people who keep our country running from being used as political pawns by the Trump Administration. Finally, the federal government must take a more active role in addressing the affordability crisis hitting District residents. My top priority is reining in skyrocketing energy costs. My extensive experience in both the public and private sectors uniquely qualifies me to dismantle the systemic cost burdens created by DC Council decisions and address federal programs that force higher costs on district residents and businesses. I will work to reform the policies currently hampering our goals for clean, affordable energy, ensuring that District residents and businesses aren't forced to choose between sustainability and affordability.

As a member of Congress with limited voting power, what will be your strategy to influence legislation and policies impacting the District?

While the DC Delegate lacks a floor vote, the office maintains committee assignments, staff resources, and constituent responsibilities identical to those of a full Representative. I will maximize this power by leveraging my committee seats and dedicated staff to lead through influence—building strategic legislative coalitions and using a mastery of the media to amplify our priorities. As the representative of the heart of our federal

government, I hold a unique mandate and a vital duty to protect the federal workforce and agencies that form the backbone of our community. I will ensure that the District's voice is not just heard, but remains indispensable to the national conversation. Drawing on my experience as a Capitol Hill staffer and an Obama-appointed federal agency head, I have already honed these skills and established a record of accomplishment that I am ready to put to work for the District on day one.

Please explain your position on the US-Israel relationship.

The United States must stand with the Israeli people in their pursuit of freedom and security while decisively confronting the global rise of antisemitism. As a steadfast ally, the U.S. should continue providing the necessary support for Israel to defend itself against regional aggression and terrorism. Simultaneously, we must reinvigorate diplomatic efforts toward a sustainable two-state solution—recognizing that lasting peace is only possible when Palestinians and Israelis alike can live in dignity, sovereignty, and safety.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

We must confront the alarming rise of antisemitism and violence targeting the Jewish community with more than just rhetoric—we need action. As Delegate, I will leverage the full power of the federal government to bolster local safety efforts, such as the Safe and Secure Nonprofit DC initiative and FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). I will introduce legislation to provide federal matching dollars for the Safe and Secure DC fund, effectively doubling its local impact. Crucially, I will fight to ensure federal grants finally cover recurring security guard costs, a major financial burden for our houses of worship. Furthermore, I will ensure that local law enforcement receives seamless, real-time threat intelligence from federal resources to keep our community safe.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

Autonomy is fundamental for District residents. Drawing on my experience as a Capitol Hill staffer and an Obama-appointed federal agency head, I will be firm and loud with members of Congress to ensure they allow District officials to carry out the responsibilities normally reserved for states under the Constitution. I will not allow our local governance to be treated as a suggestion rather than a right. I will fight to protect our Home Rule from any interference or overreach by federal leadership on behalf of the 700,000 citizens I represent.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I believe in the right of the State of Israel to live in peace and freedom, and I believe in the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people. Just as the original UN delegates who voted to partition the region understood, these two goals are not incompatible. My commitment to democratic participation means I will never accept being told which constituents I can interact with. My record as NRC Chairman proves this: I made it a priority to engage with public interest groups,

government officials, and regulated companies alike to ensure I fully understood every side of an issue. As Delegate, I will bring that same inclusive, independent leadership to the Hill. I will keep my door open and proactively reach out to all who seek constructive dialogue and solutions, especially on an issue as vital and complex as the future of Israel and a Palestinian state.

Candidates for Mayor of the District of Columbia

Kenyan R. McDuffie



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Affordability, particularly affordable housing and the cost of living. Nearly half of DC residents spend more than 30% of their income on housing, a crisis that is pricing out working families and long-term residents alike. Affordable units now cost between \$700,000 and \$1 million each to build, more than the average home sale price. I will use the Comprehensive Plan review to legalize rowhouses and apartments citywide and reduce the permitting delays that have driven per-unit construction costs to between \$700,000 and \$1 million. I will also protect the thousands of existing affordable units at risk of foreclosure or expiring affordability covenants and restore full funding to homeownership assistance programs, because affordability means keeping people in the homes they already have, not just building new ones. Opportunity Creating an opportunity economy, particularly creating economic resilience in the face of federal workforce reductions. DC unemployment stands at 6.9% against a 4.3% national rate, and federal employment is projected to fall by 40,000 jobs. Revenue growth through FY2029 is projected to fall below the rate of inflation, which will produce real cuts to services unless the city generates new economic activity. I will advance an innovation agenda to attract emerging industries in cybersecurity, climate technology, and the care economy, and build employer-aligned workforce pipelines so DC residents are first in line for the jobs being created. The departure of tens of thousands of skilled workers is a moment of risk and an opening to diversify the economy and expand opportunity for every ward. Accountability I will make DC accountable to residents historically left behind. The best way of doing so is closing the racial wealth gap. Washington, DC has the largest racial wealth gap in the nation, where white households hold 81 times the wealth of Black households. That disparity did not happen by accident, and it will not close without deliberate, measurable action. I will fully fund and implement the Child Wealth Building Act (Baby Bonds), expand access to community banks and low-cost financial products, and pursue targeted relief from medical and consumer debt. I will align housing and economic development policies to change the geography of opportunity across all eight wards. This is about holding city government accountable to outcomes, not intentions, on the most defining inequality in DC.



How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I spent years fighting discrimination as a civil rights trial attorney in President Obama's Department of Justice. I litigated cases involving civil rights violations and held those who perpetrated hate accountable under the law. I bring that background directly to the role of Mayor. As a proud graduate of Howard University, one of my biggest inspirations is Charles Hamilton Houston and his fight to dismantle segregation in DC. His leadership in cases like *Hurd v. Hodge* and *Shelley v. Kraemer* helped end the enforcement of racially restrictive housing covenants in DC. These cases had profound impacts in protecting both Black and Jewish families from housing discrimination. As Councilmember, I brought together diverse stakeholders and won the unanimous support of my colleagues to declare racism a public health emergency. This declaration followed my efforts to fight hatred through the passage of the Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH Act). The REACH Act etched our commitment to fighting for racial justice in stone through policy and budget support. Through this effort, we incorporated racial justice into every facet of DC Government, including the Office of Human Rights, in how our budgets are put together, in the Mayor's Office, and in the Council. As Mayor, I will take a clear, public stance against antisemitism and all forms of hatred. Silence in the face of hate is complicity, city leaders set the tone for the communities they govern. I will work with the DC Office of Human Rights and law enforcement to strengthen reporting mechanisms for hate incidents, support community-based education programs, hold perpetrators accountable, and expand prevention partnerships with schools and cultural institutions. This is work I have already done. In funding the REACH Act, I was able to secure two new full time employees to help the office fight discrimination and racial injustice. I also recognize that confronting hatred requires more than reactive enforcement. It requires building a city where every community, especially DC's Jewish community, feels seen, respected, and included in civic life. I will partner with Jewish organizations and other community groups as a standing practice rather than a special accommodation. I am also keenly aware of the profound pain the Washington Jewish community has endured, both historically and in recent times. The horrific shooting outside the Capitol Jewish Museum, which took the lives of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, was a devastating reminder that antisemitism is not an abstraction. It is a lethal threat. The Jewish community should know that I will be unwavering in my commitment to their safety and security in these troubling times. I feel a profound connection to the Jewish community rooted in a shared history of struggle for justice and equality. The story of Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney, Jewish and Black men who gave their lives together in the fight for civil rights, is not just history. It is a testament to the bond forged between our communities in the hardest of moments. That alliance is one I will carry forward as Mayor, ensuring that the City of Washington stands shoulder to shoulder with its Jewish community, not just in words, but in action.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that

support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I will never yield to pressure to exclude Jewish community partners from civic life based on their political or deeply-held beliefs. I believe in ONE DC: a city that is made stronger by its diverse communities, and I unequivocally reject attempts to pit the residents of the District against each other. When an organization demands that an elected official exclude a specific community from the District as a condition of endorsement or political support, that demands moral clarity from city leaders and candidates. It must be called out directly for what it is: bigotry, and the antithesis of progressivism. As Mayor, I will engage with the full breadth of DC's Jewish community on the issues that affect daily life in the District. I have a consistent record of working across coalitions to advance policy, and I will apply that same approach to my relationship with Jewish organizations. I will make decisions based on shared values and the needs of DC residents, and I will not allow outside pressure campaigns to dictate which communities I work with.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

The safety of religious institutions, cultural organizations, and nonprofits is a nonnegotiable public safety priority. Jewish institutions, along with houses of worship and community organizations serving other groups, face real and documented risks. I'll partner with Jewish community leaders to keep congregants and synagogue attendees safe from harassment and intimidation. I'll work closely with law enforcement to ensure all Jewish Washingtonians can practice their faith freely. The Mayor's office has a direct responsibility to support their security. As Mayor, I will work to: Strengthen coordination between MPD and community security officers so that organizations can quickly access support and threat assessments, and can share information with law enforcement in real time. Advocate for and assist nonprofits in accessing federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) funding, which helps organizations harden their facilities against hate-motivated attacks. Support improved hate crime tracking and reporting so that patterns can be identified and law enforcement resources deployed accordingly. Maintain an open channel of communication with community security leaders so that security concerns can be raised directly with city leadership. Speak with moral clarity about the threats to the Jewish community and will stand alongside them in the fight against antisemitism.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I championed affordable housing throughout my 13 years on the Council. As Councilmember, I authored the law requiring that every sale of District-owned land to private developers include affordable units, and I authored legislation dedicating half of all future budget surpluses to the Housing Production Trust Fund, producing hundreds of millions of dollars for affordable housing production and preservation. As Mayor,

my approach addresses both supply and cost. I will: Use the Comprehensive Plan review to legalize rowhouses and apartments citywide, removing the zoning barriers that prevent new housing from being built in the first place. Streamline permitting and expand by-right approvals to cut the administrative delays and litigation costs that have driven per-unit affordable housing construction costs to between \$700,000 and \$1 million. Protect existing affordable housing by restructuring the debt of financially distressed properties so families are not displaced while the city loses units it already paid to create. Restore full funding to the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) and the Employer-Assisted Homeownership Program (EAHP) so working families have a realistic path to homeownership, while streamlining the process. Expand use of the District Opportunity to Purchase Act for land banking and affordable housing preservation.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

Defending Home Rule is a Day One priority for me. As a Councilmember, I consistently opposed federal interference in DC's locally passed laws. As a former civil rights attorney, I know how to use legal tools to protect constitutional rights and challenge government overreach. As Mayor, I will issue a Day One directive ending MPD cooperation with ICE and bolster resources in the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel to mount constitutional challenges to federal encroachment. I will also strengthen DC's federal advocacy efforts to fight for what this city has long deserved: statehood, expanded budget autonomy, and full legislative independence. At the same time, I understand that DC's fiscal situation demands pragmatism. The city faces a projected \$1.1 billion budget shortfall in part because of federal workforce reductions and restrictions on the District's fiscal flexibility. I will pursue economic diversification and growth strategies that reduce DC's dependence on federal spending and protect the city's ability to fund its own priorities regardless of shifting federal priorities. I will not sacrifice residents' rights or DC's values under federal pressure, and I will not allow outside demands to override the will of the people who elected me.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Strong traditional public schools and charter schools are both central to DC's future. As Councilmember, I secured millions of dollars each year for school and recreation center modernizations, championed nonprofit youth sports programs, and worked to expand safe passage programs for students. I authored and passed the Career and Technical Education Study Amendment Act of 2024 to modernize CTE programs and align them with workforce demand. As Mayor, I will: Strengthen literacy, classroom quality, responsible technology integration, and teacher support across both sectors. Expand access to reliable out-of-school-time programming across all eight wards. Expand CTE programs, vocational training, and career academies tied to high-demand sectors. Reduce chronic absenteeism by publishing measurable standards on public dashboards that hold schools accountable for attendance

outcomes. Deliver timely special education services, mental health supports, and school health resources. Integrate behavioral health into schools and strengthen connections to community-based providers so students can access care without being pulled out of learning environments.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

DC will be a city that protects all of its residents, especially immigrants, from federal overreach. On Day One, I will end MPD cooperation with ICE, and my administration will expand civil right-to-counsel protections for immigrant families facing legal proceedings. Beyond this, I am committed to making city government work for immigrant residents on the full range of issues they face: Access to healthcare: I will fight to protect the DC Health Care Alliance and other safety net programs that serve uninsured and immigrant residents, and will strengthen community health center capacity. Workforce opportunity: I will expand workforce development programs with clear pathways to good-paying jobs and will pursue regulatory reforms, such as professional license reciprocity and licensing fee relief, that lower barriers for immigrant workers seeking to practice in their trained fields. Housing stability: My housing agenda, including protecting existing affordable housing and expanding new supply, directly benefits immigrant families who are disproportionately cost-burdened. Government access: I will modernize city services so that residents can access benefits and navigate government systems in their own languages, reducing the barriers that prevent eligible immigrants from receiving support to which they are legally entitled.

Rini Sampath



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

My three priorities are Fix the Basics, Lower the Cost of Living, and Strengthen Communities. Fixing

the basics means reliable city services: 911 that answers quickly, schools with heat, permits that don't take months. Lowering costs means building more housing, expanding childcare subsidies, and enforcing renter protections. Strengthening communities means stable public safety staffing, safe streets for pedestrians and bikers, and protecting the social safety net from federal cuts. Every decision I make as Mayor connects back to whether the government is actually delivering for residents, especially those in Wards 7 and 8 who have been let down the longest.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Antisemitism is active, growing, and must be confronted directly. As Mayor, I will ensure MPD's hate crimes unit is adequately staffed and that hate crimes are prosecuted fully. My commitment to

this is also personal. Since I was 21, I have worked with the USC Shoah Foundation to encourage young people to use their voices to speak out against antisemitism and hatred. I will apply that same standard to all forms of hatred: antisemitism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian bigotry, and attacks on LGBTQ+ residents. Hatred anywhere in DC is a concern for me, and I will govern with that consistency.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will not allow political pressure to dictate which communities the Mayor’s office partners with. I will make decisions based solely on what’s best for the people of DC and the functioning of city government.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

The security threats facing Jewish institutions, mosques, Black churches, LGBTQ+ centers, and other nonprofits are real and require a serious government response. As Mayor, I will ensure the Nonprofit Security Grant Program is fully utilized and that organizations know how to access it. I will direct MPD to maintain strong community liaison relationships with at-risk institutions and ensure threat reporting is taken seriously and acted on quickly. No organization in DC should feel that the DC government is indifferent to their safety. I will be a steady partner to every community, prioritizing your safety every day of the year.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

DC must build more housing while protecting current residents. I will reform zoning to legalize single-stair buildings up to eight stories, eliminate parking minimums near transit, and streamline permitting. I will set a new five-year production goal exceeding the prior 36,000-unit target, with clear benchmarks for deeply affordable units in every ward. I will protect the Housing Production Trust Fund and Local Rent Supplement Program, enforce rent stabilization laws, and crack down on predatory junk fees. I will also address delays in filling available affordable units because publicly funded housing should not sit empty while families wait.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

DC’s autonomy is non-negotiable. I will proactively build relationships with key members of Congress and the White House to prevent federal overreach before it occurs. When Congress acts outside legal bounds, as it did by missing the 30-day disapproval window on our tax code, I will support the Attorney General in fighting back. Further, I will not facilitate MPD or DC government cooperation with ICE. DC’s 700,000 residents deserve a Mayor who defends their right to self-governance every single day, not just when it’s politically convenient.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Every student deserves a high-quality education regardless of which public school they attend. I will

adjust the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for inflation annually, enforce the Schools First in Budgeting Act, and review the Public Education Master Facilities Plan to address chronic building failures. I will use Mayoral control to ensure DCPS complies with transparency requirements and Council directives. I will also order a review of the IMPACT teacher evaluation system to address racial disparities in scoring and reduce punitive outcomes. Strong schools require stable staffing, functional buildings, and cross-agency attendance strategies. I will deliver all three.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Immigrants are the backbone of DC. Our small businesses, our neighborhoods, our workforce. As Mayor, I will not facilitate MPD or DC government cooperation with ICE. I will require every agency to meet language access standards and publish compliance data publicly, so residents can access services in the language they speak. I will enforce housing inspection laws that protect immigrant renters from predatory landlords. I will expand childcare access for immigrant families and ensure the earned income tax credit reaches working families. As an immigrant myself, I know that a city that works for immigrant residents works better for everyone.

Gary Goodweather



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Housing, education, and defending DC’s right to govern itself. DC’s housing production collapsed

83% in two years while rents keep climbing. My Affordable DC plan builds 50,000 new homes, creates permanently affordable housing, and cuts permitting timelines that drive developers to Virginia and Maryland. In education, 62% of DC students cannot read at grade level despite spending more per student than nearly any city in the country. I will implement the Science of Reading in every school, screen every child for dyslexia by first grade, and put a full-time mental health clinician in every building. On Home Rule, I will establish a standing defense coordination mechanism across the Mayor’s office, Council, and Attorney General to respond to every congressional threat in real time.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Until just this week I had been a long time member of Temple Sinai. My children were bar and bat mitzvahed there. Antisemitism is not abstract to me. It is personal. As mayor, I will treat every act of antisemitism and hate as a public safety priority requiring a direct executive response. I will fund and staff the Office of Human Rights to investigate and act on hate incidents, expand hate crime training within MPD, and ensure synagogues, Jewish schools, and community centers have dedicated security liaisons. I will also establish a Mayor’s Interfaith Safety Council so that Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, and other faith communities have a permanent seat at the table on policy affecting their safety and inclusion. Hatred in any form weakens DC. Confronting it is not optional. It is a core function of the mayor’s office.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will work with every community and every organization that serves the people of Washington, DC. That includes Jewish organizations across the full spectrum of views on Israel and the world. No group that contributes to the civic, cultural, or social fabric of this city will be excluded from a relationship with my administration based on political litmus tests. I have spent my career building coalitions across difference. I did it in the Army, in real estate, and in this campaign. Pressure to isolate communities is pressure I will reject. The mayor’s job is to govern for all of DC, and that means engaging with all of DC.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Jewish institutions face real and escalating threats. As a member of the DC Jewish community, I understand this firsthand. As mayor, I will expand the Nonprofit Security Grant Program so that synagogues, day schools, JCCs, and other at-risk institutions can access funding for cameras, barriers, lighting, and emergency systems. I will assign dedicated MPD community safety liaisons to neighborhoods with concentrations of at-risk institutions, with regular security walk-throughs and direct communication channels. Every reported threat will be tracked publicly through a hate incident dashboard so the city and its communities can see patterns and hold government accountable.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

DC’s housing crisis demands both production and permanence. My Affordable DC plan builds 50,000 new homes by 2032 by cutting permitting timelines, eliminating parking minimums near Metro, and creating a Housing Accelerator Office with one point of contact and one timeline. To make housing permanently affordable, I will scale community land trusts so affordability survives beyond expiring covenants. I will build publicly owned social housing units and launch Section 8 to Equity, a first-in-the-nation program creating a pathway from voucher renting to homeownership. An Affordable Housing Equity Map will show how many and how distributed affordable housing is across the district. I am the only candidate who has actually built housing in this city. That experience is what this crisis demands.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

DC’s right to self-governance is nonnegotiable. As mayor, I will defend every law passed by the Council, even ones I personally oppose. I will never signal to Congress that overturning DC law is acceptable. I will establish a Home Rule Defense Coordination office across the Mayor’s office, Council, and Attorney General to monitor and respond to every congressional threat in real time. I will push to eliminate the 30/60-day congressional review window, transfer judicial appointment authority to DC, and advance the DC National Guard Home Rule Act. My approach to the current federal administration is direct: protect

DC residents, defend DC laws, and run the city so well that there is no pretext for intervention. Fiscal excellence is a shield. A well-managed and safe city with balanced budgets and strong outcomes is harder to override.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I navigated DC’s education landscape as a parent. My children attended the JCC for preschool, then Sheridan School. My daughter is dyslexic, and Sheridan could not meet her needs. We were fortunate to afford the Lab School, which changed her life. Most families do not have that option, and that is exactly why I am committed to identifying every child’s needs early so family income never determines a child’s educational ceiling. In public schools, I will implement the Science of Reading, screen every K-3 student for literacy struggles multiple times per year, and screen every child for dyslexia by first grade with free tutoring through 12th. I will reform teacher evaluations with real teacher input and put a full-time nurse and mental health clinician in every school. For independent schools, I will protect and streamline the regulatory environment so they can focus on educating students.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

DC government will stand between federal overreach and the people who live here. Every DC agency will operate under enforceable sanctuary protections. No agency will cooperate with federal immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. No local resources will support federal immigration operations. Schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and city facilities will be protected spaces where residents access services without fear. I will launch a citywide Know Your Rights campaign so every resident understands their protections, fund a legal defense program for residents targeted by federal enforcement, expand the municipal ID program, and defend the Local Residents Voting Rights Act. Immigrant families contribute to every part of this city. They are our neighbors, our business owners, our teachers. A Goodweather administration will protect them and serve them.

Janeese Lewis George



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Standing up to Trump: DC is under attack and we need leaders that stand up and fight back.

This starts with rescinding the MPD order that permits our officers to work with ICE, sharing information and transferring people to ICE custody. Tackling the affordability crisis. My housing plan will protect tenants with proactive enforcement, rent stabilization and landlord accountability, and make it easier to buy a home. I will work towards universal affordable childcare by expanding existing subsidies to cover more families, increasing supply and investing in our workforce. Making government more effective. I will make customer service a top priority, eliminate long lines for government services, end duplicative processes, restore public trust in 911, and ensure consistent enforcement.



How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Every DC resident, no matter where they are from, what they look like, or what they believe, deserves to live with safety and freedom. Antisemitism is morally wrong and unacceptable. It is part of the same machinery of division and fear used against Black people, immigrant communities, and more. We must work together to stop it. I hear the concerns people have about rising antisemitism. I know the pain that Jews around the country and in DC felt on October 7. When two staff members from the Israeli Embassy were shot and killed at the Capital Jewish Museum in downtown DC. I made clear that such horrific acts of violence are sickening and have no place in our community. It will be my job as mayor to address antisemitism using every part of government at my disposal.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

As a councilmember I’ve had the pleasure of building relationships with Jewish institutions and their leaders in Ward 4, hearing their concerns and working together to ensure a safe and thriving Jewish community. I want to use this questionnaire to be clear, I will not be a mayor who includes or excludes you based on your opinions or feelings on matters here and across the world. I will serve you here as a Washingtonian. I will always fight for your freedom and safety and sense of belonging with the same sense of urgency that we fight the ICE kidnappings of our neighbors. I am so proud that my first endorsement for mayor came from the Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund, an amazing organization leading the fight for economic, racial, and social justice in DC.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

As a councilmember, I have worked to get proper security at synagogues and schools in my ward. As mayor, I will prioritize protecting Jewish spaces across the city. Bigotry and violence against Jews is simply not acceptable. I will continue to support security grants to faith institutions and nonprofits, including synagogues. Jewish institutions have often taken on the financial burden of rising threats, but it is fairer for that burden to be shared. I will ensure D.C.’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has a plan to protect Jewish schools and synagogues, be transparent about its efforts, and DPW’s graffiti team will remove any antisemitic marks within 24 hours of a report. I have also pushed to ensure our schools address antisemitism and have education around it.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

My plan includes breaking down barriers to build

more housing by reforming zoning laws so more homes can be built all across the city, and relaxing restrictions on development in transit corridors and on public land so more people can live near the Metro, schools, and parks. I will cut the red tape and streamline our permitting process to reduce delays and eliminate unnecessary costs for developers looking to build homes for all incomes. I will expand homeownership by increasing downpayment assistance and implementing creative strategies to make interest rates more affordable, and keep longtime residents in their homes through foreclosure prevention aid, and supporting senior homeowners with rehab assistance and protecting them from predatory reverse mortgages.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

DC Home Rule must be protected, and we must take steps toward achieving Statehood. As mayor I will use every tool available to protect DC autonomy, including supporting the Office of the Attorney General in taking legal action and sitting down face-to-face with Members of Congress and other decisionmakers. I will create an Office of Federal Affairs to ensure we have capacity to interface with all federal agencies and task forces operating in DC. Where there are opportunities to partner with federal agencies to improve the lives of DC residents, I will do so. But I will not accept the terrorization of our youth or the kidnapping of our neighbors.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

One of the biggest challenges facing our K-12 schools is teacher turnover. I’ve already won additional funding (including a librarian in every school) but we need more flexibility for teachers. We also need to recruit more teachers overall but especially Black male educators and bilingual and immigrant educators. And we need to support our students and educators with more nurses, psychologists and social workers. I will expand after-school programming in all eight Wards. One area where public and independent schools can work together and with the mayor’s office is in sharing successful strategies for addressing truancy and promoting higher achievement.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I will continue to listen to and support DC’s immigrant community just like I have as a councilmember. On day one as mayor I will end cooperation between MPD and ICE. I will vigorously defend DC’s status as a Sanctuary City and do everything I can to protect our immigrant neighbors from kidnapping and harassment. I also pushed back against cuts to the Health Care Alliance, the city’s main vehicle for insuring immigrants who are ineligible for Medicaid. My platform to make DC more affordable will disproportionately benefit immigrants, many of whom work in low-wage industries and rent their homes.

Ernest E. Johnson



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Affordability: Rising utility costs and hidden “backdoor taxes” are placing an unfair burden on residents, especially seniors and working families. I will challenge excessive rate increases approved by the Public Service Commission and advocate for greater transparency and consumer protections. I also support revoking the current \$2 billion lead pipe replacement program, which has driven up costs, and replacing it with a targeted \$500 million pilot funded through federal EPA grants—delivering results without overburdening ratepayers. **Public Safety:** Every resident must feel safe in their neighborhood, school, and house of worship. I will strengthen community-based policing, improve response times, and ensure coordination with faith-based organizations. Prevention is key—we will expand youth employment through initiatives like a Mayor’s Beautification Corps, engaging thousands of young people as ambassadors for safer communities. **Accountable Governance & Economic Opportunity:** Washington, DC must prioritize residents over special interests. I will address waste, fraud, and abuse across government and redirect resources toward community benefit. Instead of committing \$1.5 billion in subsidies for stadium redevelopment at RFK, I propose investing \$1.5 billion to acquire a 26% ownership stake in the Washington Commanders. This ensures DC residents have a real seat at the table, including long-term financial participation and protections such as tag-along rights if ownership changes. As a lifelong Washingtonian, I am committed to delivering practical, transparent solutions that strengthen trust in government and improve quality of life for all residents.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Antisemitism and all forms of hatred have no place in Washington, DC, and confronting them requires more than words—it demands consistent, visible action. As a lifelong Washingtonian and African American, I understand from lived experience the consequences of injustice being ignored for far too long. My administration will strengthen hate crime enforcement, ensure faster reporting and response, and deepen coordination between MPD, federal partners, and faith-based institutions, including synagogues and schools. We will invest in prevention through education that promotes respect and understanding across communities. I will also establish regular engagement with community leaders to ensure concerns are addressed in real time. This is not a moment for performative politics—it is a call for leadership rooted in accountability, safety, and respect for every resident.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

In over 70 years of lived experience in Washington, DC, I have not encountered that kind of pressure. As mayor, my focus will remain on improving the quality of life for all District residents, not yielding to divisive demands. My administration will work with any organization committed to the safety, dignity, and well-being of our communities. Issues involving human rights, discrimination, threats, or harassment—against any group or individual—will receive an immediate and serious response. Leadership requires fairness, consistency, and respect. I will not exclude or isolate communities based on political labels, and I will ensure every resident and organization is treated with equal protection and access under the law.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

All hate crimes, threats, and acts of intimidation will be addressed promptly and on a case-by-case basis with seriousness and accountability. These are not matters for speculation, but for decisive action. As mayor, I will ensure fairness, thorough investigations, and strong coordination between MPD, federal law enforcement, and community institutions. We will improve communication channels so organizations can report concerns quickly and receive timely support. My administration will also prioritize proactive safety measures, including visibility and outreach, to deter threats before they occur. Every organization and resident in DC deserves to feel safe, and we will respond with urgency, consistency, and respect for the law.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

Affordable housing must be built for residents—not driven by lobbyists or developer interests. My administration will prioritize community-based solutions by partnering with nonprofits, certified minority contractors, returning citizens, and high school vocational students to create a workforce pipeline that reduces costs and expands opportunity. We will increase housing production while keeping it truly affordable. I will also request DC Auditor Kathy Patterson to conduct a three-year review of housing and commercial developments to ensure compliance with First Source laws and affordable housing set-asides, holding developers accountable for any public subsidies received.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

First, we must ensure DC residents understand that statehood is intended to benefit everyone—not a privileged few. That clarity will strengthen our

advocacy and build broader national support. As mayor, I will firmly protect DC's autonomy while maintaining a practical working relationship with federal leadership. Where federal actions support our residents, we will collaborate; where they undermine local control or fairness, we will push back using every legal and legislative tool available. My approach is grounded in balance—standing strong for DC's rights while advancing solutions that improve the daily lives of our residents.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I am deeply concerned about our education outcomes. Despite significant investment, too many students are not receiving the foundation they need to succeed. As mayor, I will focus on building strong fundamentals from pre-K through 5th grade—ensuring every child masters reading, writing, and arithmetic. From 6th through 12th grade, we will expand STEM and vocational training across all schools, preparing students for college, careers, and entrepreneurship. I will strengthen accountability, support teachers and families, and ensure resources are aligned with results. Every student—whether in public or independent schools—deserves a safe, high-quality education that leads to opportunity.

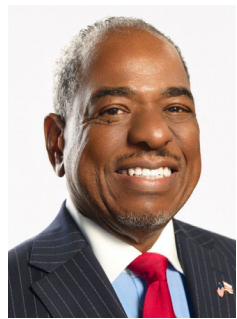
How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Washington, DC is a city built by immigrants, and supporting their success strengthens our entire community. My administration will ensure access to education, workforce opportunities, and city services regardless of background. We will expand job training, small business support, and pathways to economic stability so immigrant families can thrive. Public safety and trust are essential—I will support policies that encourage cooperation with local services without fear, while ensuring all residents are treated with dignity and respect. My focus is on inclusion, opportunity, and making sure every resident can fully participate in the life and future of our city.

Hope Solomon

Did not submit a response.

Vincent Orange (“VO”)



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

The three most important issues to me are public safety, affordable housing, and economic opportunity. On public safety, I support a both/and approach: effective policing, violence interruption, mental health response, and prevention for young people. On housing, we must build more, preserve affordability, speed up permitting, and use public land and downtown conversions to add units. On economic opportunity, I will back small businesses, workforce training, childcare, and better pathways to good jobs so more DC residents can stay and thrive here.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I will name antisemitism directly and never explain it away as acceptable politics or protest. I will confront it alongside anti-Black racism,

Islamophobia, anti-Asian hate, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, and xenophobia—clearly, consistently, and without excuses. That means strong enforcement of hate-crime laws, better reporting and rapid response, security coordination with vulnerable institutions, and education that helps prevent hate before it turns into violence. Every Washingtonian should be able to worship, learn, gather, and live safely and with dignity.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will not cave to pressure campaigns that demand I exclude Jewish organizations because they support Israel's existence as a Jewish, democratic state. Those organizations are part of DC's civic life and deserve the same respect and access as any other community group. I have been to Israel three times: once as President of the DC Chamber with the U.S. Chamber delegation, once on the advance team for Mayor Bowser's trade mission, and once organizing that 60-person Bowser trade mission. I believe in engagement, dialogue, and partnership—not blacklists. I will meet broadly, listen seriously, and reject antisemitism in all forms.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Jewish organizations and other nonprofits facing threats should not have to choose between serving people and paying for security. I support expanding access to security grants, speeding approval for cameras and other safety upgrades, and improving coordination among MPD, emergency management, and nonprofit leaders. We should provide threat assessments, staff training, and emergency planning for synagogues, schools, community centers, mosques, churches, and other at-risk institutions. Safety cannot depend on ZIP code or fundraising capacity.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

We need to increase supply, preserve existing affordability, and prevent displacement. I support faster permitting, more housing near transit and downtown, office-to-residential conversions, and better use of public land for mixed-income housing. We should continue investing in the Housing Production Trust Fund and rental assistance, preserve naturally occurring affordable housing, and expand opportunities for first-time homeownership. The goal is simple: more homes, at more price points, in more neighborhoods across DC.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

I will defend DC's Home Rule and budget autonomy while governing pragmatically. If Congress or the White House overreach, I will push back through coalition-building, public advocacy, and every legal and legislative tool available. At the same time, I will work with federal partners where collaboration helps residents on transportation, public safety, economic development, and basic services. The balance is straightforward: cooperate where it benefits DC, but never surrender the democratic rights, local resources, or self-determination of DC residents.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

DC should strengthen its entire education ecosystem. For public schools—including DCPS and public charter schools—that means investing in excellent teaching, literacy and math, mental health support, safe facilities, and strong pathways from classroom to college and careers. For independent schools, it means partnership on transportation, public safety, youth programming, and citywide service opportunities. I believe in collaboration, not silos. When schools work together and families have strong options, students across DC benefit.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I will support immigrant communities by protecting language access, expanding access to legal services and know-your-rights resources, and making it easier for families to navigate schools, healthcare, housing, and city services. I also want immigrant entrepreneurs and workers to succeed, which means support for small businesses, credential recognition, workforce programs, and fair access to permits and procurement. Immigrant residents make DC stronger every day, and our policies should reflect dignity, safety, opportunity, and belonging.

Candidates for Attorney General of the District of Columbia

Brian Schwalb



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Enhancing public safety in every neighborhood through a comprehensive approach that balances swift, certain accountability for people who violate the law with proactive strategies to prevent crime from happening in the first place. 2. Protecting DC autonomy, home rule, and democratic values through consistent, courageous, fact-based defense of the Constitution and rule of law. 3. Using the law creatively, consistently, and effectively to help DC residents afford to live, work and thrive in Washington, DC.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

It is critical that elected leaders speak clearly and courageously whenever hate, in any form, raises its ugly head. As AG, I will continue to use the tools of my office (civil, criminal, policy, community engagement, and communications) to make clear that antisemitism and all forms of hatred have no place in DC communities. When anti-Jewish hate motivates actions that violate the law, I will aggressively enforce the criminal and civil authorities delegated to the OAG, including where appropriate, the District's Bias Related Crimes Act. I will also continue to encourage District residents to report instances of hate crimes or civil rights violations to OAG's Civil Rights Section.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

As DC's independent Attorney General, third party groups do not and will not dictate with whom my team or I meet. I will continue to listen to, learn from and engage with all District residents, businesses, and organizations with the focus of my work making DC a safer, stronger, and more affordable city for everyone who lives, works and visits here. As I have done during my first term as AG, my focus will remain on using the law to protect the District, taxpayer dollars, DC residents, and DC values.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

My team and I will continue to remain accessible to any DC resident or organization that is or believes it is at risk of becoming a crime victim, including a victim of a hate crime. Where OAG has authority and admissible evidence to do so, we will hold people who commit hate crimes accountable in court, civilly and criminally. We will also continue to work closely with MPD and other federal and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and charge crimes, and encourage the Council and Mayoral agencies to provide support for security measures for all communities.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

By continuing to focus on both protecting the District's existing housing stock (holding landlords, including the DC Housing Authority, accountable for maintaining their units in safe, habitable, code-compliant condition); by aggressively enforcing the District's consumer protection and antitrust laws to hold bad actors who take advantage of renters, home buyers and home owners accountable; and by advocating for continued development and growth of both market rate and affordable housing pursuant to the terms and goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with any demands made by federal government leadership?

The District is the nation's capital and as such, enjoys a unique, symbiotic relationship with the federal government. However, to the extent the federal government violates Constitutional rights or makes unconstitutional demands on the District, unlawfully interferes with the District's local laws, or otherwise impermissibly harms the District and District residents, I will enforce and defend the Constitution and the laws, including environmental laws and the Home Rule Act. I have done that as DC's independent AG over the last 3 years and, to the extent the federal government continues to make unlawful demands or act unlawfully, my team and I will continue to uphold the rule of law.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Enhancing public and charter schools is the job of the Mayor and the Council. As Attorney General, I will continue to prioritize positive youth development by promoting school attendance, encouraging teachers and administrators to



engage constructively with their students, assisting communities in ensuring that children can get safely to and from school, celebrating young people for their resiliency and achievements through, among other things, our Right Direction Awards, High School Advisory Council, and Do the Write Thing Awards, and holding accountable companies that put profits over the well being of children’s health, such as social media and electronic cigarette/vaping companies.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

By continuing to thoroughly enforce the District’s housing, consumer protection, worker protection and anti-discrimination laws; by continuing to issue public guidance and know-your-rights publications; and by continuing to engage with and listen to the District’s vibrant, diverse immigrant community, making clear that the DC government and the OAG will not use its resources to advance federal immigration enforcement efforts.

J.P. Szymkowicz
Did not submit a response.

Candidates for At-Large Member of the Council

Dwight Davis



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

MPD and DC Jails are not a panacea for the District’s problems. They cannot be drug treatment facilities,

social workers, and peacekeepers. I will work on strengthening education and providing more affordable housing. Then, I will use oversight to enhance public health-first and community-oriented policing approaches to public safety. I want to work to redesign the Per Pupil Funding Formula and restore middle school programming. Children are the real economic engine of the city. They are the future leaders, business owners, and teachers. Feeder patterns give families a sense of assurance about what’s next; however, only the money follows the student, not the programming or support systems, creating a missing middle that hurts students in and after middle school. We need that programming and support to follow the student, along with the money. Public housing has a negative connotation, but it does not have to be that way. WE can bring back workforce housing using our public housing stock and resources.

I plan to stipulate housing for DC government workers in contract negotiations with unions and in any public resources to developers, including the Housing Production Trust Fund and any tax abatements.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I will stand out, speak up, get in the way, and cause good trouble. Hate has no home here in the District, and it starts with the example I set for my family, staff, and the community. If elected, I want to build on the success of the Council Office of Racial Equity to ensure gender and social equity are considered in all legislation before the DC Council.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I am here to run a people-powered and grassroots campaign. As an educator, I know the best way to build a community is to meet people where they are and then make a decision. If elected, I will represent everyone, not just the people who voted for me.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

MPD is not a panacea for all of the District’s problems, but this is its job. As I strengthen the education system, work to provide more affordable housing, and guide MPD into a community-oriented policing approach, they will be better able to engage with communities at risk of hate crimes. With better engagement comes better risk assessment, so that MPD can better protect our residents and businesses.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I want to use our public resources to bring back workforce housing. I will start with all DC Government workers. Using our contract negotiations and stipulations for any public resources or tax abatement to private entities, I will ensure that our teachers, firefighters, and police officers live in the District as a rent stabilization measure for buildings with AMI or rent control stipulations.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

I will never be satisfied until DC Statehood is ratified. My message to every member of Congress is that DC needs statehood, and it should be the first measure they discuss in every Congress. If elected,

my job will be to work with the DC Delegate to cultivate those relationships on Capitol Hill to inform members of Congress about how they affect the residents of the District. Whenever they intercede, my job is to galvanize the residents of the District, Regional partners, and everybody who will listen to call or visit Congress to remind them that legal does not mean moral and remember our founding words of “No Taxation without Representation.”

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I believe in a public education system where great schools—regardless of sector—can innovate, and are held accountable for delivering results for students. All schools must have clear expectations for student outcomes, transparency, and accountability. I want to redesign the Per Pupil Funding Formula to better promote equity and efficiency in our schooling ecosystem. Through the redesign, I want to make sure all schools have the programming and support systems needed so that dollars are not taken away from the classroom, impacting what students receive to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

DC is a sanctuary city, and I will always work to keep it that way. I will not permit MPD from working with ICE agents for nonviolent criminal offenses because if elected and allowed to enact my plan for a public-health-first approach to public safety and a community-oriented MPD, it will be able to handle keeping the peace. I will combat wage theft, which disproportionately affects the immigrant community, by advancing Government as a Service for our small businesses so that they have a one-stop shop for government services, from permitting to paying their taxes.

Candace Tiana Nelson
Did not submit a response.

Leniqua’dominique Jenkins



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

The three most important issues to me are the three E’s: Education, Equity, and Environmental Justice. Education: As a former DCPS preschool teacher, I’ve seen firsthand how early investment shapes outcomes. I will prioritize literacy, support educators, and expand enrichment so every child can read by third grade and thrive beyond it. Equity: I will advance policies that close gaps in housing, healthcare, and economic opportunity—

ensuring long-term residents are not displaced from the communities they built. Environmental Justice: I will champion clean, safe neighborhoods by addressing pollution, expanding green space, and protecting underserved communities from disproportionate harm. Greener and cleaner jobs in the city.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Hate has no place in DC. I will confront antisemitism and all forms of hatred through principled leadership, effective policy, and meaningful partnership. This includes strengthening hate crime reporting and enforcement, supporting education that fosters cultural understanding, and standing visibly with impacted communities. Leadership requires more than words—it requires presence. Every resident deserves to feel safe, valued, and protected.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

As an At-Large Councilmember, my responsibility is to serve all residents with fairness and integrity. I will not allow political pressure to dictate who I engage with. Jewish organizations—like all community institutions—deserve access, respect, and partnership. My focus will remain on serving DC residents, strengthening community safety, and fostering inclusion, not engaging in ideological exclusion. Leadership requires independence and consistency.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Security is fundamental. I will advocate for increased funding for nonprofit security grants, strengthen coordination between community organizations and law enforcement, and ensure clear, rapid response protocols for threats. Every place of worship and community space should feel protected. Public safety must be proactive—focused not only on response, but on prevention and preparedness.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I will expand investment in deeply affordable housing while ensuring transparency and accountability in how funds are deployed. This includes strengthening the Housing Production Trust Fund, converting underutilized properties into housing, and prioritizing long-term residents. I will also support pathways to homeownership to help families build generational wealth. Housing is not just about supply—it is about stability, dignity, and preserving community.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC residents deserve full self-determination. I will firmly advocate for DC's autonomy while engaging strategically with federal partners when appropriate. However, I will not support federal overreach that undermines local governance or the will of our residents. Collaboration is important—but so is standing firm. DC deserves respect, representation, and the authority to govern itself.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I will prioritize strong investment in public schools, support teacher retention, and ensure equitable access to resources across all communities. I also believe in fostering collaboration among public, charter, and independent schools to share best practices and improve outcomes citywide. Expanding access to arts, technology, and global learning opportunities will help ensure every student receives a well-rounded, high-quality education.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

DC's strength lies in its diversity. I will protect sanctuary policies, expand access to legal services, language support, and workforce development, and uplift immigrant-owned businesses. Every resident should feel safe accessing city services without fear. Supporting immigrant communities is not only a moral responsibility—it is essential to the cultural and economic vitality of our city.

Fred Hill



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Housing affordability, public safety, and economic opportunity. On housing affordability:

I'll reduce zoning and permitting barriers to build more housing, including affordable units, across all eight wards, especially in areas that are transit-oriented. On public safety: I support fully staffing MPD while investing in violence interruption, mental health, and youth employment. On economic opportunity: As a small business owner for more than 20 years, I know what it takes to build something in this city. I'll cut unnecessary red tape and streamline DCRA permitting so businesses can open and grow without months of bureaucratic delay. I'll strengthen DC's CBE program and work to diversify DC's economy.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Antisemitism is not a fringe concern — it is rising nationally and locally. I will call it out every time. I'll support robust enforcement of DC's Bias-Related Crime Act, ensure the Office of Human Rights has the budget to process discrimination complaints, and work with the Jewish community to strengthen hate crime reporting and response. Hatred directed at any community is a threat to all communities, and I intend to say so clearly and consistently.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I will work with any organization committed to the wellbeing of DC residents, including Jewish organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel. Pressure campaigns that seek to isolate or delegitimize Jewish communal institutions are themselves a form of prejudice I will not accommodate. I believe in coalitions built on shared values — not litmus tests designed to exclude. My record as BZA Chairman shows I make decisions based on evidence and fairness, not political pressure.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Every organization targeted because of who they are deserves a government that takes that seriously. I will support sustained funding for DC's nonprofit security grant program and ensure Jewish institutions and other at-risk nonprofits can access resources without bureaucratic delays. I will push for better coordination between MPD and community organizations, and make clear that hate crimes against any community will be prosecuted fully and publicly condemned by my office.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

As former Chairman of DC's Board of Zoning Adjustment, I've seen how land use decisions shape housing access. I support reducing zoning and permitting barriers, especially near transit; reforming the permitting process to cut costly delays; and expanding missing-middle housing across all eight wards.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC's limited constitutional status is real, but cannot become an excuse for passivity. I will support the AG's office in challenging federal overreach through litigation, push for proactive Know Your Rights outreach in multiple languages, and use every Council platform to advance statehood — the only durable solution. I will be honest about what DC can and cannot do, while making clear that capitulation to unlawful federal pressure is not an option my office will accept.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Every DC child deserves a quality education regardless of zip code or school type. I support strong public schools with adequate resources, teacher retention, and equitable special education services. I also believe families should have real choices, including access to quality independent schools. I'll work to ensure both systems are accountable, well-funded, and meeting the needs of DC's diverse student population.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I am the son of an immigrant mother and a member of the Chickasaw Nation. Supporting DC's immigrant community is personal. I oppose MPD cooperation with ICE, support

sanctuary protections. I'll invest in Know Your Rights outreach in Spanish, Amharic, and other languages, and work to ensure immigrant residents — including international educators in DCPS — have the stability and protections they were promised.

Oye Owolewa



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

If elected, I will focus on three core priorities: expanding d e m o c r a c y , stabilizing housing,

and redefining public safety. As DC's Shadow Representative, I've organized nationally and engaged Congress to push back on federal interference. Locally, I will protect ballot initiatives and strengthen democratic institutions so residents have real power over their government. Second, I will work to stop displacement and stabilize housing. That means dedicating at least 30% of the Housing Production Trust Fund to preservation, strengthening TOPA, fully funding ERAP and LRSP, and expanding social housing and community land trusts. Third, I will advance a public health approach to safety by investing in violence interruption, youth employment, housing, and mental health care, while shifting resources away from ineffective systems and toward prevention and stability.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

As a healthcare professional, I understand that a healthy system requires multiple parts working together. The same is true for our communities. Confronting antisemitism requires education, cohesion, and mobilization. We must be clear that antisemitism is real and unacceptable. I will support education that helps residents understand Jewish history and strengthens relationships across communities. We must also ensure safety by supporting community-based efforts around synagogues, coordinating with local organizations, and providing resources to prevent and respond to threats. Ultimately, safety comes from connection. When communities know each other, stand together, and clearly reject hate, we create a District where antisemitism and all forms of violence are not tolerated.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

As a local elected official, my responsibility is to serve the people of DC and work with a broad range of community organizations, including Jewish organizations with diverse perspectives. I do not believe in excluding communities based on political litmus tests. DC is a global capital, and many residents have deep personal connections to countries around the world. I approach that with respect and compassion, while staying focused on policies that best serve District residents. My role is to build trust, ensure safety, and deliver results locally. That requires working across differences, engaging in good faith, and strengthening relationships with communities across DC.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

The level of antisemitism and violence we are seeing is unacceptable. No one should feel unsafe in their home, place of worship, or community. As someone with a Nigerian name who has experienced being seen as "other," I carry a deep sense of empathy for communities targeted by hate. That is why I believe in building strong coalitions, relationships, and proactive community education that brings people together before harm occurs. We must also ensure real support for victims. Experiencing a hate crime is deeply traumatic, and residents need access to services, counseling, and clear pathways to justice. Finally, we need broader public awareness and accountability. Combating antisemitism requires both prevention and response, and I will work in partnership with community organizations to ensure the District is actively doing both.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

To increase affordable housing, I will focus on preservation, production, and strong tenant protections. Preserving existing affordable housing is the fastest and most cost-effective way to prevent displacement, so I will dedicate at least 30% of the Housing Production Trust Fund to preservation, including TOPA and nonprofit acquisitions. I will restore and fully fund ERAP and the Local Rent Supplement Program to keep residents housed, while strengthening rent stabilization and closing loopholes that drive up costs. At the same time, we must build more housing, especially near transit and across all eight wards, while ensuring development includes real affordability. Finally, I will bring stronger oversight to DCHA and DHCD so public investments deliver safe, stable housing for residents.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

As DC's three-time elected U.S. Shadow Representative, I understand both the urgency of defending home rule and the need to govern effectively within real constraints. We must start by being strong internally. That means holding local leadership to the highest standards, strengthening transparency, and ensuring our government is accountable to residents. When our institutions are trusted and our democracy is strong, we are better positioned to push back against federal interference. At the same time, I will continue organizing for statehood, building national coalitions, and directly engaging Congress to defend DC's autonomy. My approach is to strengthen DC from within while standing firm against federal overreach that undermines our democracy and harms our residents.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

At a young age, I was wrongly tracked into special education classes and fell behind. That experience shaped how I see education. If we do not center the child and truly understand their needs, our schools will fail them. To strengthen our schools, we must look at the full ecosystem around each student. That means supporting teachers, principals, parents, custodial staff, and administrators, and ensuring schools are deeply connected to their communities. As a Councilmember, I will fight



to invest in community schools that provide wraparound services like mental health care, nutrition, and tutoring. I will support stable funding for early childhood education, expand literacy programs, and ensure every school has the counselors and support staff students need. Education works when we see the whole child and support the whole community around them.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

As the child of immigrants, I grew up understanding both the opportunity and uncertainty that immigrant families carry. I was fortunate to be part of communities that included Jewish families and people from many backgrounds, and I saw how connection and inclusion create stronger, safer communities. Supporting immigrants starts with dignity and integration—ensuring families feel safe, welcomed, and able to fully participate in community life. As a Councilmember, I will work to make DC a true sanctuary city in practice. That means enforcing the Sanctuary Values Act, expanding language access, and ensuring schools, clinics, and public services are safe and accessible for all. I will also support legal defense, housing, healthcare, and education so immigrant residents can thrive.

Dyana N.M. Forester

Did not submit a response.

Lisa Raymond



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

As a candidate for DC Council At-Large, my priorities are rooted in protecting DC’s home rule, supporting families, expanding access to affordable childcare and education, and keeping D.C. a place where people can afford to live and thrive. I will fight to protect DC’s home rule and advance statehood. Our autonomy is under threat from a hostile Congress that can override our laws, interfere with our budget, and undermine policies that reflect our values. This has serious consequences for residents, especially immigrant communities who rely on local protections. I will work with our Mayor, fellow Councilmembers, the federal delegation, the DC Attorney General, and advocacy organizations to push back against federal overreach, defend our right to self-governance, fight for statehood, and ensure that decisions about DC are made by the people who live here. As a Councilmember, I will work to ensure that D.C. is a place where families can live and thrive. I am committed to making childcare affordable and accessible for every family in the District. As a working parent, I know firsthand how hard it is to find care you trust and can afford. The childcare crisis is both a supply and workforce problem, and we must address both. I will support full funding for the Birth-to-Three Act and the Child Care Pay Equity Fund, cut red tape so more providers can participate in subsidy programs, and invest in opening and expanding

childcare centers across the city. These steps will help families stay in the workforce, support early childhood development, and strengthen our economy. I will prioritize expanding affordable housing, which involves tackling the shortage that drives up costs across DC. We need to build more housing of all types while ensuring deeply affordable units are available for those who need them most. That means streamlining permitting, eliminating unnecessary delays, and holding housing programs accountable for delivering units at lower income levels. I will also support enforcing laws that protect tenants and investments in permanent supportive housing so longtime residents can stay in their communities and we can reduce homelessness. These three priorities are deeply connected. Protecting home rule gives us the power to govern ourselves. Expanding childcare supports working families and economic stability. And increasing affordable housing ensures people can continue to call DC home. Together, they form the foundation of a stronger, more equitable District.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

As a Jew, I have personally confronted antisemitism throughout my life, and have helped my children navigate difficult and upsetting situations, including when my child, who was in middle school at the time, received a “funny” Holocaust video from another classmate. I have been lucky that, in most situations, I was able to educate people about how their comments or actions - or those of their children - were hurtful, and I hope that made a difference in some small way. But sadly, the concerning rise of antisemitism and violence specifically targeted at Jewish communities in the last three years cannot be addressed simply with conversations. As shared by JCRC’s CEO, Ron Halber, Jews make up only two percent of the US population, yet account for about two-thirds of religious-based hate crimes. I have watched with alarm as Hill Havurah, my Jewish community, has had to take action, including bringing police presence and groups of trained safety volunteers to our services and events, just to ensure that our members are safe. And as a member of the Alpha Epsilon Phi Foundation Board, I have seen our members on college campuses face ongoing threats simply for belonging to a Jewish sorority. As a Councilmember, and as a private citizen, I would strongly denounce all antisemitism and other forms of hatred, whether in the form of violence, words, or more subtle forms of discrimination or exclusion. I would work closely with Jewish individuals and organizations, and all others experiencing hate, to hear and address concerns. This might include helping to coordinate prevention and response to violence and making sure that all organizations have adequate resources to keep their members safe. Education, which aims to address the root causes of antisemitism and other hatred through education and dialogue, is an important strategy. As a city, we must look for opportunities to build relationships among diverse groups and foster understanding. Particularly given the current federal administration’s attempts to erase history, we must proactively educate children about racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all other forms of hatred, with a particular focus on social media use.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that

support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

As a candidate or an elected official, I will push back against any group pressuring me to avoid collaborating or affiliating with organizations that support a Jewish, democratic state of Israel. This is non-negotiable. Residents are entitled to their views on international issues, including Israel, and those views should not determine whether they are welcomed into civic engagement or used as a litmus test for people seeking elected office in DC. In a democracy, it is not acceptable to exclude entire groups of people or organizations that disagree with your viewpoint on international matters, and it is not the DC that I believe in. I have always operated in my professional and personal life to be as inclusive as possible. In my former roles as the Ward 6 Member and President of the DC State Board of Education and Senior Education Advisor to the DC Council, I received testimony from and met with individuals or organizations with whom I did not agree; regardless, I sought to understand their perspectives, assisted them when possible, and carefully considered their concerns before taking official actions. As a Councilmember, I would continue to operate in the same manner I always have - engaging with all residents and treating them with respect and dignity.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

As a Councilmember, I will work to ensure that all DC residents are safe from hate crimes, whether they are attending activities - including religious services - walking in their neighborhoods, or commuting to work or school. Given that Jewish organizations have been targeted specifically for violence, I would support the continued use of tools like the Safe and Secure DC Nonprofit Fund to improve the security of those, or any other organizations at risk of terrorist or extremist attacks. I would also coordinate with partners like the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, who have provided substantial funding and efforts to support institutions navigating security concerns.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I want to expand the supply of affordable housing while protecting longtime residents. I would support policy and budget changes that streamline permitting and reduce unnecessary delays, while holding housing programs accountable for producing units efficiently at the income levels most in need, especially below 80% AMI. I also support anti-displacement tools, including practical reforms to TOPA, and sustained investment in permanent supportive housing to reduce homelessness.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

The White House and Congress should not be allowed to overturn our laws without fierce opposition from our Council and our residents. I will use my voice as a Councilmember to publicly voice my opposition, including speaking

to local and national media outlets; consider all legal remedies; speak directly with Members of Congress; and continue to underscore to residents how critical it is for them to be involved in fighting for Statehood and protecting home rule.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As a candidate for DC Council At-Large, I believe we need a strong, inclusive education system that supports every student in the District, across both public and independent schools, while ensuring safety, equity, and opportunity. I’ve spent much of my career in education, including helping to establish and lead schools in DC, and serving as President of the State Board of Education. That experience has shown me that strengthening public education must remain a top priority, while also recognizing the important role that independent schools play in our broader educational ecosystem. For our public schools, my focus will be on ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code. That means investing in early literacy, math support, and high-impact tutoring, as well as strengthening teacher recruitment and retention. I will use the Council’s oversight authority to make sure resources are directed where they are needed most and that programs are delivering real results for students. I will also push for greater transparency and accountability so families can trust that our education system is working for them. At the same time, I believe independent schools are important partners in our city and serve many families across DC, including faith-based communities such as Jewish day schools. These schools have raised serious concerns about student safety and the rise in hate crimes, particularly antisemitism. That is unacceptable, and it requires a clear response from city leadership. I will work to ensure that all schools, public and independent, have access to the support they need to keep students safe. That includes advocating for security resources, improving coordination with public safety agencies, and ensuring that schools have clear lines of communication with the District. Safety must be a baseline for every student in every learning environment. Beyond security, education plays a critical role in preventing hate and building understanding. I support strengthening curriculum and programming that promote cultural competency, civic education, and awareness of antisemitism and other forms of hate. Schools should be places where students learn not only academic skills, but also how to respect and engage with people from different backgrounds. Ultimately, my approach is to lead with partnership. I will engage regularly with public school leaders, independent school communities, parents, and students to understand their needs and respond in a thoughtful, collaborative way. A strong education system in DC means supporting all of our students and ensuring that every school is a place where children are safe, supported, and able to succeed.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Supporting our immigrant community starts with making sure people feel safe and able to participate in life in D.C. without fear. I will defend D.C.’s sanctuary status, and oppose any cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities like ICE, while strengthening protections around schools,

hospitals, and courthouses. I will also support funding for legal defense and community organizations so families have trusted support when their rights are at risk. I will work to make city services fully accessible by expanding language access, supporting bilingual education, and ensuring residents can engage with their government in the language they speak. At the same time, I will focus on opportunity by improving education for multilingual learners, protecting access to healthcare, and supporting immigrant-owned small businesses. This is about making sure every resident feels safe, heard, and able to thrive in D.C.

Kevin B. Chavous



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

I will increase affordable housing supply through zoning updates, ADUs, and the adaptive reuse of

vacant properties, while strengthening programs that help first-time and longtime homeowners remain in their homes. I also support expanding permanent supportive housing and rental assistance.

I will prioritize job training, apprenticeships, and career pipelines tied to high-demand fields. I will also work to strengthen local hiring and First Source requirements, enforce labor and wage standards, and invest in neighborhood-based economic development.

I will support smart enforcement prioritizing violent crime and repeat offenders while strengthening community policing. At the same time, I will advocate for expanded mental health, crisis-response, and diversion services outside the MPD.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I will work closely with constituents and community partners to confront anti-Jewish bias and rhetoric. This includes taking reports of antisemitism seriously and ensuring appropriate intervention and support when incidents occur. I reject the use of antisemitic tropes in, and will also advocate for our agencies and institutions to address any harassment towards our Jewish neighbors.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I oppose boycotts targeting Jewish businesses. Local businesses should not be held responsible for the actions or policies of a foreign government. As an at-large Councilmember, I will represent every single person in the city, and I take that responsibility seriously.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I will continue funding — and support increasing funding for — the Safe and Secure Nonprofit Grant, which has helped institutions such as the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School strengthen security

in the face of rising antisemitism. For example, I met with your group last year to discuss these concerns and strongly support maintaining this grant and expanding it where possible.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I want to update residential zoning laws in the District to encourage multifamily housing construction all over the city to make up for decades of housing decay and slow growth that have not kept pace with the rising population since the new millennium. Additionally, I want to utilize vacant commercial properties by promoting and encouraging commercial to residential conversion projects using tax-based incentives and deferred loans. I will also work to restore funding for permanent supportive housing vouchers to assist single individuals with disabilities and special needs, and explore a rent freeze on properties owned by landlords with persistent, unresolved housing code violations.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC residents pay more in federal taxes per capita than any state, yet Congress can overturn our local laws. If elected, I will work with the Delegate, Mayor, Attorney General, and Council to defend our autonomy. I used my voice as the DC Committeeman at the DNC to alert Democrats to the overreach the President is committing in our city, and everyone now sees this government being deployed across other (Democratic) cities. I also have no fear speaking with Republicans nationally about our limited local control. Local governments cannot pass laws that impact Federal agencies, so we must be willing to have productive conversations with the Administration regarding their actions, particularly around ICE. I do not believe that MPD should cooperate with ICE.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As a parent of two DCPS students, I know that robust investment in our public education system is essential. Persistent turnover, burnout, and staffing shortages undermine student learning and school culture. We cannot close achievement gaps or expand opportunity without experienced, supported teachers in every classroom. If elected, I will prioritize competitive compensation, fully funded staffing models, and strong collective bargaining agreements that respect educators as professionals. I believe that all schools must have a certain baseline amount of funding that ensures they have the basics - a counselor, a nurse and mental health practitioners. By investing in educators, we invest directly in student success.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

If elected, I will immediately vote to restore the Alliance program, as it provides essential coverage to low-income residents who do not qualify for federal healthcare programs. The reduction or complete elimination of these benefits will devastate our city, and the biggest beneficiaries include DC’s immigrants. A visit to a primary care doctor is cheaper than an emergency room visit. Furthermore, I will support all public efforts by Congress to support federal immigration reform and relief. I would also personally participate and contribute to organizational efforts aimed

at fighting for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, family reunification and permanent relief for those with TPS or DACA.

Greg Jackson

Did not submit a response.

Candidates for At-Large Councilmember (Special Election)

Elissa Silverman



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

1. D.C. residents, workers, and civic institutions are under threat from the Trump administration.

Our D.C. government needs to protect our neighbors and city from President Trump and his administration, not collaborate in their terror and lawlessness. I have experience standing up to hate and political intimidation. As your at-large councilmember I will work to enforce our local sanctuary law and stop MPD collaboration with ICE and defend our neighbors from unlawful actions. 2. With Trump costing tens of thousands of our residents their jobs and dragging down our economy, we need to use our resources efficiently and effectively. The D.C. Council needs to make sure our \$22 billion budget delivers programs that work, make residents’ lives better, and make our local businesses stronger. I’ve made transparency, accountability, and getting results the foundation of my policymaking. Our kids need trusted adults in their lives. And they need to be in school. We must be laser-focused on reducing truancy, which shows one-in-three students chronically absent. As a former Labor Committee chair, I know we also need our school day to work for our working families, which means expanding our existing free, universal pre-k to childcare, as well as to include quality, free aftercare. Our residents should be represented by trusted leaders who have a track record of getting results, improving the lives of Washingtonians, and making our city more affordable. When I introduced the D.C. paid family leave bill a decade ago, people said it couldn’t be done. Now tens of thousands of workers have benefited.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I call out hate when it is said. That is hard. But unfortunately I have been called a fake Jew and a termite on the steps of DC’s city hall. I had to write a letter to my council colleagues saying that this city tolerates hate against Jews and it has to stop. I’ve gotten a lot of resistance to that. There is Jewish hate on both the right and the left. It is taught. Our job is to help people unlearn it.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of

Israel (“Zionism”)?

I am honest: For years, I have told the Democratic Socialists of America Metro DC chapter that though we share many economic justice goals in common, I do not agree with their position that Israel doesn’t have a right to exist as a Jewish state. I don’t support the Netanyahu administration and I personally think he is a big threat to Jews both in Israel and in the diaspora, but I do support the existence of Israel as a Jewish state. I wish Israel was more democratic, but I also wish the United States was a better democracy. I also don’t use terms like Zionism, which many people don’t understand or have been taught to hate. The biggest thing I try to do is help people understand my beliefs about Israel and do not shame them for what they believe but try to open up conversation for why they believe them and tell them when I think it is hateful. Unfortunately I had to do that with the colleague who sat next to me at the D.C. Council but when CM Trayon White said those words I didn’t condemn him. I invited him to Passover and he went.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

MPD needs to work closely with our congregations and Jewish organizations during High Holidays and other times like now when there is an increased threat. We also need to give grant money to train congregations on how to train themselves on security. This issue is personal: Every year now at High Holidays I serve on my congregation’s security team. My congregation is Hill Havurah on Capitol Hill, and even though we are a little undercover in that we share a building with the Lutheran Church of the Brethren, we are also right behind the Supreme Court and right on East Capitol Street. One of the scenarios we discussed was what happened in suburban Detroit recently--a car driving into the congregation. We need to make sure our Jewish organizations have the resources and support to stay safe. It saddens me that we need to hire private security to go to a Tzedek fundraiser or kol nidre service on Yom Kippur but that is the reality and we need to stay safe.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

Many ways: We need to build more and make building easier both by relaxing some zoning restrictions and making permitting more seamless. We need to be more strategic with our housing trust fund. We’re going to have a new Housing Authority leader who we need to work with on both rejuvenation and redevelopment of our Housing Authority communities....DCHA is our biggest asset in providing housing for our pharmacy techs at CVS and cashiers at Aldi’s. We also need to increase IZ and have it apply to all areas of the city, no more exemptions like in NOMA.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC government needs to be strategic when it goes on offense to protect Home Rule and when we need to play defense. The biggest problem I see right now is the lack of coordination among the mayor, the Council, the Attorney General and our delegate. We need to work together on these issues and have a plan. The Council also needs a much more muscular presence on Capitol Hill.



How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I am a product and graduate of a big city public school system just up I-95. As a legislator, I believe it is my job to appropriate the resources needed to make our public neighborhood schools the best option for kids and parents. I understand that some families might want an option like Milton or Gonzaga. I will make sure those schools are seen as important institutions and valued in the community, but I hope some of those neighbors of Milton might look twice at Shepherd Elementary and the great education they'll get for their taxpayer dollars!

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Our country is largely a land of immigrants, of people who came here and still come here to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. My family came here from Eastern Europe. As an at-large councilmember, I will both put the resources in place to make sure that these new residents have the resources they need to be successful DC residents. Our schools will meet their English Language Learner needs, we have housing that is affordable, and access to living wage careers. I will also lead by example in welcoming them and integrating them into our community.

Jacque D. Patterson



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

1. Public Education: As person born in foster care, public education saved my life and it will always be my number one priority. I believe it is most germane to your organization because ignorance breeds hate. When you teach the truth about a persons culture and heritage, you allow an individual to empathize with their journey in life. As the president of the DC State Board of Education, I'm proud that we revised social studies standards so that we can educate DC students based on truth, instead of prejudice. 2. Housing: I'm a Ward 8 resident, and I'm seeing that many of the residents who use to be my neighbors are being pushed out the Ward as it becomes more expensive to live in the District. I intend to focus on supporting the increase of affordable housing by promoting policies that increase the density in which developers can build. 3. Human Services: The current president has strategically targeted federal safety net programs for elimination or decreased funding. This will cause an enormous strain on our local budget as reimbursements will be constrained by new regulations for what qualifies. I want to ensure that low-income families that will be affected by new HUD, Medicaid, Medicare and TANF requirements don't fall through the cracks. To prepare the local governments to take on a larger share of social safety net programs, I will focus on incentivizing small businesses to open and thrive thereby reinvigorating our local economy that has

been depleted by federal job loss with an economy that will build our tax revenue base making it possible to fund social safety net programs.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I served 29 years in the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain assistant. I had several tour of duties with Rabbis. What I learned is that to confront antisemitism, racism and hate in general, you must be unapologetic in calling it out. It is when you don't speak out, you allow it to grow. What you will see in me as your next At-Large council member, is a person who will fight for the equal and equitable treatment of DC residents regardless of their religion, national origin or heritage.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I will always put people over politics. I'm at a stage in my life where I'm not seeking this elective office because I need to hold elected office, because I believe in the responsibilities of being a public servant. There is no political pressure that would make me bend to supporting the causes that I feel are fair and right. I believe that people of Jewish heritage have a right to a Jewish homeland which has been established as the land that is now the country of Israel.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

The DC State Board of Education was in session the night that two young Jewish persons were killed at the Capital Jewish Museum. Two blocks away at 441 Judiciary Square. We had to adjourn our meeting so the mayor, US. Attorney General and MPD could use the room to address the public. What a horrible incident. This incident illustrates the need to provide heightened security in places and for organizations that have been targeted for hate crimes. As a council member, I would work with MPD to identify locations that are high profile for hate crimes throughout our city and prioritize them for patrol during tour of duties and stationed officers during events upon request from the organization/non-profit.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

During the Fenty administration, I was appointed to the DC Housing Finance Agency. I served five years on the Board of Directors. I also served three years on the Historic Preservation Review Board. Those two experiences have informed my thoughts on how to increase affordable housing. We have to ensure we are incentivizing developers by removing restrictions such as the set back requirement and massing of buildings in designated historic areas. We have to increase the allowable density in communities that have historically opposed density and we should create a housing allowance for educators and first responders so that they can live in the city and community they serve.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

I have always been a balanced and principled public servant. I have fought for self-determination of the District by lobbying Congress with students and I've worked with individuals from both side of the aisle to ensure we were passing impactful school policies that were not red flags for conservatives. When advocating for issues I feel strongly about, I have built the relationships necessary to see the merit in our cause each time. I'm not a performative public servant. I'm a consensus building public servant. You accomplish big things not by being adversarial but by being collaborative. That's how I will promote and protect DC's autonomy, by being promoting legislation that is sensible and fair.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As the president of the DC State Board of Education, I have worked tirelessly to build educational equity throughout our public education ecosystem. Our city is essentially evenly constituted by students who attend traditional and independent schools. To that point, I have promoted policies and funding through the USPPF that is equitable for our schools. I will continue to push for budgets that fund students and educators through the USPPF instead of one time allotments that can be taken away from schools during constrained budget years. I have worked tirelessly to improve our DC School Report Card and Accountability Framework to ensure that we are delivering on our promise to parents that their child will receive a quality education. During my tenure on the SBOE, I have worked with my colleagues to revise the Social Studies Standards, enhanced Literacy Standards, introduced Financial Literacy and Social Emotional Learning Standards and I'm currently revising both the High School Graduation Requirements and Physical Education Standards. The SBOE is the only entity in the city who's mission it is to improve public education across both public school sectors. As a council member I will promote community schools as a way to address the resource needs of schools located in underserved and marginalized communities and legislation that declares 'public education as a Civil Right'.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

To support the immigrant community, we have to ensure that they are safe from harassment and ethnic profiling. To do this, we must retain our sanctuary city status. Secondly, we must ensure local public safety officers are not collaborating with Homeland Security Officers in the terrorizing of DC residents. We must seek polices that ensure arrest warrants for undocumented immigrants have specified cause and are served in a manner that does not strike fear in our immigrant communities. We must ensure that officers can be identified, meaning no wearing of mask and badges clearly displayed to ensure any appeals of legal status can be done with the same rights given to U.S. citizens.

Doni Crawford



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

From my current seat and if elected, I will focus on housing and affordability issues that are burdening residents. We must build more housing that isn't just luxury units, but a mix that includes the 'missing middle' and more family-sized housing. I also want to amend the District's Home Purchase Assistance Program to make assistance easier to access and more flexible. With our economy shifting in the face of federal turmoil, we must diversify our economy. I want to shed the stigma that DC is a difficult place to do business and provide an environment where entrepreneurs can grow and larger employers want to relocate here. I support tying tax incentives to employment metrics and sunseting incentives that fail benchmarks. Finally, ensuring every student reads on grade level is the top issue facing our public schools. As AI use increases, we need a district-wide AI policy to safeguard against erosion of key literacy skills. The District must continue investing in proven strategies.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

There is no place in our society for hatred towards any of our neighbors. My faith teaches me to love my neighbor as myself and it does not provide exceptions. I believe that the first line of defense in combating hate is fostering understanding among people. I will support initiatives with that aim. Additionally, I believe that the District has some of the strongest anti-bias laws in the country, but if there are gaps in the law, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter with advocates and strengthen those laws where necessary.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

When I launched my campaign, I pledged that "At-Large means At-Large". I am, and will continue to be, a representative for all District residents. This is a fundamental tenet of my work. I believe in listening to the voice of every resident and that means that I will talk to and work with any resident that seeks to better the lives of their fellow residents. Throughout my career, I have worked with people and organizations that I agree with often, and with organizations that I rarely agree with. As long as the goal remains the best interest of District residents, I will be available to all people.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I am a proponent of the Safe and Secure DC Nonprofit Fund that was championed by JCRC and other organizations. It provides critical funds to address threats to nonprofit organizations and their members who are at risk of hate motivated violence. I believe the need is much greater than the funds that we have made available and therefore, as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, I will advocate for increasing this essential funding. I also believe that it is important for MPD and HSEMA to continue intelligence sharing with our federal partners on any threats and provide increased patrols when appropriate.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

It's essential that the District is affordable for every income level, particularly the working class. Many government employees like teachers and first responders cannot afford a home here. As a staffer, I worked on a bill to help first responders buy homes in DC. As a Councilmember, I will expand investments in workforce housing. Expanding density across all eight wards is critical to making affordable housing a reality. I'm committed to working with the DC Office of Zoning to find opportunities along busy corridors and near transit stops. On ownership, I will pursue innovative approaches including private sector partnerships to expand access to homeownership. Given the Home Purchase Assistance Program is often at capacity, I want our programs to provide certainty and resources to residents as they close on their first home so I will work to ensure that the program is more flexible and nimble to participants in the future.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

To be clear, the District's autonomy is non-negotiable. Local decisions must be made by the residents and their elected leaders. I will never compromise on that core belief. At the same time, DC residents and officials are accustomed to working with our federal partners, and have done so across Democratic and Republican administrations. I am not opposed to working with federal officials on matters that benefit the District and its residents. Federal land transfers are a perfect example of how the District can work with our federal partners. We should continue working with them to identify areas that can be transferred for housing, recreation, or other useful purposes. This, and any working relationship with the federal government, must be a collaborative process and not the federal government dictating to local residents. But federal demands are inappropriate and demonstrate why statehood must be our North Star.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

From my current seat, I conduct oversight of DCPS and DCPCSB and take that responsibility seriously. If elected, I will prioritize equitable funding, excellent educators, proven literacy strategies, and pathways to college and career opportunities. I will also work with my colleagues to address chronic absenteeism. Keeping students in school is equally critical. I will support stronger investments in attendance teams, Safe Passage, and improving coordination between schools and community organizations to increase wraparound supports that help keep students in school. I will continue advancing CTE and dual enrollment resources so that we can help keep students engaged. I

respect the autonomy of independent schools and will ensure they can continue serving their communities without undue interference.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I have already co-introduced and voted to approve emergency legislation that requires greater transparency from MPD when it collaborates with federal immigration enforcement. I will continue to strengthen oversight mechanisms, and ensure that DC's immigrant and marginalized communities can interact with local government without fear. Every resident of this District, regardless of immigration status, national origin, or ward, is entitled to the full protection of their constitutional rights. The Council must be relentless in defending that principle, especially when federal pressure threatens to erode it. I strongly oppose MPD cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Immigrants represent the heart of our communities and they must be able to trust local law enforcement without fear. I sit on the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety so I will continue to urge the Chair to move permanent legislation that I co-introduced, that requires full transparency around any coordination between MPD and federal agencies, including ICE and HSI.

Candidates for Ward 1 Member of the Council

Aparna Raj



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

DC faces urgent challenges that threaten the well-being of working-class residents, and particularly Black and brown communities including the skyrocketing cost of living, encroaching corporate power, and attacks from the federal government. To address these issues, as Ward 1 Councilmember, I will fight: for rent stabilization for every multifamily apartment building; to create more housing of all types across DC; to fund free childcare for every family; for transparency and labor protections in every development deal; for public investment in housing, social services, and community resources rather than corporate profit schemes; to end MPD collaboration with ICE; to support federal workers; to strengthen protections for immigrants and queer & trans people; and for DC statehood.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I will fight to ensure that every resident – Jewish, Muslim, Black, queer, immigrant, or otherwise – can live without fear of violence or harassment. Combating antisemitism and all forms of hate requires solidarity. I will work closely with community leaders, rabbis, and other faith and cultural organizations to address pressing safety concerns facing Ward 1's Jewish community. This means community town halls to discuss antisemitism and other forms of bigotry in DC and Ward 1, meeting with residents in our community

to understand and best address their concerns, using my platform to foster solidarity across all faith, cultural, and neighborhood leaders, and attending joyful events as well. Safety comes from both preventing harm and fostering a vibrant, multicultural, multifaith city.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

Jewish residents and organizations are a vital part of our community, and I will engage with respect, openness, and a commitment to our shared values, and I commit to working with all constituents to make DC more affordable and easier to live in for all. And in the same way that I would not work with weapons manufacturers, I will not work with AIPAC or organizations whose mission is to lobby for pro-Israel policies. I believe we have a moral obligation to fight for human rights for all people. That includes advocating for the safety and freedom of Palestinians as well as Jews, and speaking out against violence, apartheid, and genocide. If elected, I would use my voice — and where possible, the tools of local government — to support human and democratic rights for all and to push for an end to violence and occupation.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

We have seen a rise in antisemitic attacks in recent years, and I take that seriously. I'm running for a DC where everyone can live freely without fear. As Councilmember, I will work with Jewish leaders and residents to understand safety needs and ensure access to resources, including funding for community-based violence prevention and hate crime response through agencies such as the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Office of Human Rights, and Office of the Attorney General. I will support investigations of hate-based incidents and also address root causes by investing in public education, after-school programs, stable housing, and reliable public transportation.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

As a renter and a tenant organizer, I see skyrocketing housing costs squeezing working families every day. If elected, I will take the following steps to address our housing affordability crisis: reform DHCD's funding priorities to be responsive to actual community need; push to restore TOPA and fund better financing tools so tenant groups and nonprofits can access the capital they need; expand rent stabilization to all multifamily buildings; champion a Green New Deal for Social Housing and other innovative tools to build more sustainable affordable housing; and fight for bold land use reform to increase density near transit and on commercial corridors, end exclusionary zoning, legalize apartments in all neighborhoods, and streamline permitting.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

Defending DC autonomy is a foundational issue of our time, which is why I have been on the ground mobilizing residents to fight against Congressional interference and plug into resistance and community defense work - which I will continue

to do in office. I will also collaborate with our congressional delegation, assess the effectiveness of the Council's contracted lobbyist, and leverage relationships I have through Working Families Party and Run for Something to elevate statehood as a national issue. And I will continue organizing to build visible, sustained support for statehood among DC residents through resistance to federal overreach and civic engagement. We must defend Home Rule in the short term and build the political will, locally and nationally, to make DC the 51st state.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Public schools are core to strong communities and I'm proud to have the endorsement of Washington Teachers' Union. I support a democratic model of governance that gives more authority to the elected State Board so those closest to our schools have a real voice. I will work towards a comprehensive school funding formula, multi-year funding planning, and a greater role for LSATs. I also will work to fund wraparound services and student supports, such as community schools and after-school programming. Finally, I support measures to improve teacher retention such as improved pay and more space for teacher voice in policy decisions. I recognize that there is a role for collaboration across school communities, but see DC's primary responsibility as building a strong public school system.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I have organized alongside immigrants to fight for better homes and workplaces, and to defend our communities against ICE. I will bring that same approach into government and bring our residents and organizations together to support community defense and make sure residents have access to the resources they need. I will protect and expand the Sanctuary Values Act and Local Resident Voting Rights Act and work to prohibit any local cooperation with ICE through oversight of agencies like MPD and MTPD. I will fight to expand the local safety net that immigrant communities rely on by restoring Healthcare Alliance and ensuring housing assistance regardless of immigration status. And I will fight for DC statehood to guarantee a DC that is a safe, welcoming place for everyone.

Rashida Brown



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Housing Affordability & Preservation: I will expand affordable housing and prevent displacement by strengthening TOPA, advocating for inclusionary zoning, and supporting community land trusts. I'll prioritize preserving naturally occurring affordable housing and increasing the District's total supply. Economic & Workforce Development: I'll support small businesses and expand workforce programs linked to real jobs. I'll advocate for higher wages, worker protections, and non-traditional childcare. My work with Thrive by Five proves my commitment to creating career pathways via trade schools, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships. Public Safety Through Community Investment: As I did as an ANC, I'll address root causes via mental health crisis teams, violence interruption, and better infrastructure like traffic calming. True



safety stems from investing in education, youth programming, and community spaces that address systemic drivers of crime to protect all residents.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Rising antisemitism is a moral crisis and a universal threat to civil rights. When hatred flourishes against one community, it endangers all marginalized groups. As Councilmember, I will treat the fight against antisemitism as inseparable from our broader pursuit of a just society. I will take the following actions: Enhance Security: Increase security funds for religious institutions and ensure HSEMA’s Interfaith Group has the resources to protect Jewish communities. Strengthen Governance: Restore the Mayor’s Office on Religious Affairs to convene faith leaders against hate. Legislate Protection: Support laws that strengthen hate crime penalties, ensure robust prosecution, and address online radicalization. Education: Expand Holocaust and Jewish history curricula in DC schools to foster solidarity and combat bigotry.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

As a Black woman, I understand prejudice, hostility, and discrimination firsthand—the fear that comes with being targeted for who you are. My deep connection to the Jewish community began at 15, working at the West Ashley JCC in Charleston. This formative experience taught me that Jewish organizations are more than religious sites—they are vital hubs for joy, learning, and multi-generational connection. Witnessing the central role these institutions play shaped my conviction that protecting Jewish spaces is essential to protecting Jewish life itself. Every resident deserves to build community and practice their faith without fear. I have a deep connection to the Jewish community and I will not be deterred from working together with any organization that shares my values, especially around the local issues that are meant to be the work of the DC Council. I do not believe the DC Council should be inserting itself into international affairs.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I will support increasing the security fund to assist religious institutions protect their buildings and those who use them when threats arise. I will work to ensure that HSEMA’s Interfaith Preparedness & Advisory Group has the resources to help Jewish institutions prepare for and respond to threats. This includes: emergency preparedness training tailored to the specific threats facing Jewish communities; coordination between security personnel at different Jewish institutions; rapid communication systems to alert communities about emerging threats; and ongoing assessment of vulnerabilities and best practices for protection. I will ensure the

Office on Religious Affairs focuses on religious institutions have access to security resources and emergency preparedness support; tracks hate crimes affecting faith communities and advocates for policy responses; and builds interfaith coalitions that stand together against all forms of religious persecution.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

As an ANC I developed a strong understanding of how affordable housing policy intersects with community development, zoning law, and economic opportunity. This isn’t just about building units—it is about creating diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods that will deconcentrate poverty and address the revitalization and human capital needs of residents and communities. As Councilmember, I won’t just advocate for more housing—I’ll fight for the right mix of housing throughout to ensure that residents thrive regardless of their income. I’ll champion housing policies that legalize apartments all across the District to allow for more affordable homes, preserve existing affordability and tenant protections, and advance housing first policies with wraparound services to promote better pathways for our unhoused neighbors and remove systemic barriers that displace Black and brown residents from our community and make it harder for seniors to age in place.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

Resisting federal overreach requires bold, strategic action. I will relentlessly speak out against interference, naming it for what it is: an attack on democracy that treats DC residents as second-class citizens and act of white supremacy. Using my platform, I will champion local autonomy and the fundamental principles of self-governance. I will collaborate with congressional allies to build legislative strategies protecting our rights. While we cannot rely on a Republican-controlled Congress, I will use my seven years of experience as a federal lobbyist to navigate Capitol Hill, build pressure through hearings, and expose abuses. I’ll leverage these professional relationships and skills to advocate for DC’s budget release, autonomy, and permanent legislative protections against federal overreach.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As Division of Early Learning’s Director of Policy, Planning and Research at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), I provided strategic direction for the implementation of critical early learning policies, including DC’s Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program, quality rating and improvement system, and child care licensing and compliance. I believe our education system begins at birth, and in order to ensure high quality education, our public programs must work in partnership with independent schools, starting with childcare facilities and going all the

way through high school. In whichever sector DC students are attending school, I will work to ensure access to resources and supports that allow every student to thrive.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Ward 1’s immigrant community has been hit hard by federal attacks, but local mobilization proves our strength. As Councilmember, I will champion emergency legislation to close Sanctuary Values Act loopholes, strictly prohibiting DC agencies from cooperating with ICE unless federally required. I will secure budget resources for legal defense funds, know-your-rights trainings, and rapid response networks. Through rigorous oversight, I’ll hold agencies accountable to ensure local police never function as an arm of a federal deportation agenda. We cannot allow a fascist administration to deputize our officers against our neighbors. I am committed to documenting abuses and ensuring every resident can live, work, and travel safely without fear of persecution. I’ll also work to restore healthcare benefits for our immigrant residents and continue my partnerships with our community organizations that serve our immigrants with such great care.

Jackie Reyes Yanes



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

My top priorities are real affordable housing, universal childcare, and making city services work. As Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, I worked across agencies to connect residents to critical resources, and I will bring that same results driven approach to housing by strengthening rent stabilization, accelerating production, and ensuring residents can access support for renters and pathways to homeownership. I will fight for universal childcare so every family can work and every child has a strong start. I will also improve constituent services by making government more responsive, coordinated, and accountable.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

There is no place for antisemitism or any form of hate in DC. As Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, where I oversaw the Mayor’s Office on Religious Affairs, I worked directly with Jewish leaders to stand against antisemitism, respond to incidents, and build lasting relationships to support and uplift the Jewish community. I will continue to speak out clearly, strengthen prevention and response to hate crimes, and ensure our schools and communities promote understanding and respect. As a mother and grandmother, I believe we

must lead with values that reject hate and protect every community.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will not allow political pressure to dictate who I engage with. In my role as Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, I worked with diverse faith communities, including Jewish organizations, and built relationships rooted in respect and trust. Jewish organizations are an important part of DC’s civic fabric, and I will continue to engage openly and respectfully, even when there are differences of opinion. Leadership requires building bridges, not creating division, and I will always choose engagement.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Every community deserves to feel safe. As Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, I worked closely with faith based organizations, including Jewish institutions, to address safety concerns and coordinate with city agencies. I will ensure organizations have access to security resources, strengthen coordination with law enforcement, and advocate for funding that supports safety improvements. I will also prioritize prevention by investing in partnerships that reduce hate and violence, because safety must be proactive and responsive.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

We need housing solutions that meet people where they are. I will focus on connecting residents to resources that support renters, prevent displacement, and create real pathways to homeownership, while also supporting the production of deeply affordable housing. Through my experience at the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, I have helped residents navigate government systems, and I will ensure housing programs are accessible, effective, and responsive. Housing is the foundation of stability, and families deserve the opportunity to stay and thrive in Ward 1.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC residents deserve full self determination, and I will strongly defend Home Rule and oppose interference that undermines our ability to govern locally. Having worked in the executive branch as Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, I understand how to navigate complex government relationships while protecting services residents rely on. I will stand firm on our values while working strategically to ensure Ward 1 families are not harmed by federal decisions.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As a proud product of DC Public Schools and as a mother and grandmother, I understand how important strong schools are to families and communities. I have worked alongside families through my roles in government to connect them to resources that support student success. I will invest in public education while working collaboratively with independent schools, with a focus on safe facilities, language access, and wraparound services. When families are supported, students succeed, and I will work to ensure every child has that opportunity.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I am a proud immigrant from El Salvador, and supporting immigrant families has been both my life's work and my lived experience. As Director of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, I established the Immigration Justice Legal Services program, growing its budget from 300,000 to 3.5 million, to support immigrants arriving in DC by connecting them to legal services, housing, and critical resources as they moved through the immigration process. I have stood with families in moments of fear and uncertainty, ensuring they could access services with dignity. I will continue to protect access regardless of status, strengthen language access, and build systems that support immigrant families so they can live, work, and thrive in Ward 1.

Terry Lynch



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

Public safety - need to retire community policing and close about 6 entrenched

drug trafficking sites in Ward 1 where our homicides are occurring. Georgia Avenue revitalization can and will happen. There are more vacant and blighted properties along Georgia Avenue than ever since the riots and we are losing retail and job opportunities because of it and that is spilling over on to U Street and 14th At. I will revitalize it the same as I helped do for downtown - an area wide Poland bit then building by building effort Basic public services must be reformed - rats are winning as trash cans are boron and litter bins are overflowing We don't plow streets when it is snowing and don't plow alleys and sidewalks - huge safety issue. Streetlights need to work trees be planted graffiti removed. I file 20,000 311's a year citywide on these issues and wars 1 has fallen far back on all.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Constantly embracing arms with those who are victims of hate issuing statements and urging public education through our schools and religious institutions against hate.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I have never ever bowed to pressure from special interest groups. My many public statements as Executive Director of the Downtown Cluster of Congregations denouncing racism - most recently President Trump's social media postings about the Obama's are public record. His statements are a national tragedy and embolden hate crimes in my opinion.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

We must work closely with Jewish organizations to be more vigilant about the threats. We need visible security as well as prepared measures to address the threats. We must constantly be hearing and listening to those who are being targeted by hate groups.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

We must increase the stock of housing - I commit to adding 5000 units in Ward 1 just as I helped to bring thousands of units to downtown I will do the same for Georgia Avenue U Street and upper 14th Street through conversions, returning vacant buildings to active use and new mixed use developments on city owned and privately owned parcels. We should also strengthen rent control to eliminate loopholes that endanger the affordable housing we have. 25 per cent of new units in the Ward should be affordable units if not more and that can be adjusted site by site.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

We must work closely with the AG 's office on legal protections. I believe the President wants to return the city back to being under a Board of Governors with himself as Chair. We need to identify common ground with the President but speak up and out whenever needed. Providing better services will undercut his calls for oversight of DC operations - we must clear graffiti have street lights working reduce homicides etc.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

Education is a top priority. I will tour all the schools in Ward 1. I was one of the architects of DC school modernizations getting the City Council to match the money spent on the new baseball stadium with an equal amount for school repairs and urged and worked with Mayor Fenty to move schools under Mayoral Control and bring in Allen Lew to fix the buildings and Michelle Rhee to fix the programs. This was modeled on the Library having modernization efforts. I served on Mayor Williams's Library Task Force that urged the restoration and modernization of all the city's libraries.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I would be a very visible presence at street corners stores work sites homes and elsewhere stamina with our immigrants. I would join any legal efforts possible at protecting their rights. I issued statements opposing ICE tactics.

Miguel Trindade Deramo

Did not submit a response.

Candidates for Ward 5 Member of the Council

Bernita Carmichael



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

The three most important issues to me are: 1. Community Empowerment and Inclusivity:

I will advocate for policies that promote the participation and representation of marginalized groups, including veterans, LGBTQ+ youth, and working families, ensuring that all voices are heard in local governance. 2. Housing and Economic Development: I prioritize policies that enhance housing accessibility and affordability, combat gentrification, and create realistic pathways to homeownership for residents, fostering economic unity within our community. 3. Workplace Safety and Labor Rights: I am dedicated to supporting initiatives that emphasize workplace safety, particularly in trades and service industries, while advocating for the rights and well-being of workers to ensure safe and equitable work environments. Through these efforts, I will create a more inclusive, safe, and thriving Ward 5 for all residents.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Confronting antisemitism and other forms of hatred requires a multifaceted approach rooted in education, empathy, and community engagement. As a strong advocate for civil rights, I am committed to standing against all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia. It is essential to address the reality that, even in the context of recent global events—such as Israel and the United States opposed vote at the United Nations regarding Ghana's proposed resolution naming the transatlantic slave trade as one of the gravest crimes against humanity—there are complex dynamics at play that can impact perceptions and relationships within our communities. I recognize that these issues can evoke strong emotions and may create divisions, but that is precisely why we must foster dialogue and understanding. Especially knowing the Jewish community and transatlantic slave trade have connected tissue to oppression, hate crimes, racism, discrimination, and abuse to our women and girls. First and foremost, I believe in the power of education as a tool for combating ignorance and fostering understanding. While living in Germany because my mother served in the Army as a medic, the story of Anne Frank was taught to us in grade school. As a little colored girl in Germany I felt that pain of the Holocaust in each chapter I read. I will support initiatives that promote awareness about the history and impact of antisemitism, as well as other forms of hatred, within our schools, community organizations, and local institutions. Additionally, I will work to create opportunities for shared experiences and conversations that bridge divides. By promoting empathy and understanding, we can build stronger relationships and create a more inclusive society. Furthermore, I will advocate for policies that ensure robust protections against hate crimes and provide resources for those affected by

discrimination. It's essential to listen to and elevate the voices of marginalized communities and work collaboratively to confront and dismantle systems of oppression. In all these efforts, I commit to being an ally and to standing in solidarity with those who are targeted by hatred. Together, we can build a community that celebrates diversity and rejects all forms of hate.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel ("Zionism")?

I believe that empathy and understanding are fundamental in addressing complex issues like those surrounding Israel and Palestine. My commitment to civil rights extends to all individuals, regardless of their background. As the child of a Jewish father, I have a personal connection to the history and struggles of the Jewish community. I understand that pressure to take sides can be intense, but I will strive to foster dialogue and collaboration among all groups. Promoting peace is key, and I will engage with organizations that promote these values while respecting the rights and dignity of all people involved.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Addressing security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes is a critical priority for me. I believe that empathy and understanding are fundamental in tackling the complex issues facing our communities. My commitment to civil rights extends to every individual, regardless of their background. Recognizing the diverse perspectives within our society, I will actively work to foster dialogue and collaboration among all groups. This approach not only strengthens our communities but also promotes a safe environment for everyone. I am dedicated to engaging with organizations that prioritize security measures, education, and awareness to combat hate crimes and discrimination. By promoting peace, mutual respect, and collective action, we can address these security concerns while ensuring that the rights and dignity of all individuals are upheld. Together, we can build a safer, more inclusive society where everyone feels protected and valued.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

To address rising housing costs, I will advocate for the creation of 36,000 affordable housing units per year, ensuring that at least 20,000 of those units are designated for low-income families. It is essential to provide affordable housing options for our workforce so they can live close to their jobs and contribute to our economy. I will push for zoning reforms and provide incentives for builders to develop affordable housing. Additionally, I will advocate for increased funding for affordable housing programs and support initiatives that protect tenants' rights against unjust rent increases and evictions. By prioritizing these strategies, we can create a more equitable housing market that meets the needs of all residents.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC's autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

Balancing D.C.'s right to self-govern with the



federal government’s demands is important for our city’s future. If Congress tries to block the laws we pass or overturn our decisions, I will take clear action. I would lead a boycott against any federal efforts to interfere and make sure our voices are heard through public statements. I’ll also lobby Congress to protect our rights. Building a coalition with local leaders and other groups will be key to showing a united front against federal overreach. To educate our residents about why it’s important to stand up for our local authority, I plan to conduct public awareness campaigns. It’s essential for everyone in D.C. to know why our autonomy matters and how it impacts our everyday lives. In the end, I am committed to ensuring that we can govern ourselves while still finding ways to communicate with the federal government that respect our independence. We deserve to make our own decisions as a proud city and community on the path toward becoming the 51st state!

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As a former employee of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, I have firsthand experience working closely with both public and independent schools in D.C. I believe that to truly enhance our education system, we need to treat D.C.’s schools as an interconnected ecosystem rather than separate entities. This means developing and promoting legislation that supports collaboration among all types of schools, addresses shared challenges, and leverages resources effectively. By fostering partnerships, we can improve educational outcomes for all students, regardless of whether they attend public or independent schools. One of the first major enhancements I would advocate for is addressing the existing gaps in our education ecosystem. This could include increased funding for resources, shared professional development opportunities for teachers, and initiatives that focus on equitable access to high-quality education. I also plan to encourage community engagement in decision-making processes, ensuring that parents, educators, and students have a voice in shaping our educational landscape. By working together, we can create a more cohesive and supportive environment that prioritizes the best interests of all D.C. students.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

Supporting the immigrant community requires a comprehensive approach that addresses their unique needs and concerns. Here are several ways I plan to help our immigrant residents: 1. Advocating for Local Policies: I will work tirelessly to ensure that D.C. remains a sanctuary city, which means no collaboration between the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This policy is crucial for fostering an environment where immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and accessing essential services without fear of deportation. 2. Enhancing Access to Resources: I will push for increased funding and resources for community organizations that support immigrants. This includes legal aid services, language assistance programs, and mental health resources. By ensuring that these organizations have the support they need, we can help immigrants navigate challenges more effectively. 3. Creating Safe Reporting Mechanisms: I will collaborate with community groups to establish

safe and confidential mechanisms for immigrants to report abuse and seek help. This initiative will particularly focus on addressing the alarming cases of violence against immigrant women and girls, ensuring they have a trusted pathway to seek assistance. 4. Educational Outreach and Programs: I will advocate for educational programs that provide immigrants with information about their rights and available resources. Workshops on legal rights, health services, and integration programs can empower immigrants and help them feel more connected to their community. 5. Supporting Family Reunification: I will work on policies that prioritize family reunification for immigrants, understanding how critical family ties are for our immigrant communities’ emotional and mental well-being. 6. Mobilizing for Political Change: I will actively engage in campaigns to elect leaders who prioritize immigration reform and support policies that are beneficial to immigrant communities. It’s essential to flip the narrative and ensure that representatives are held accountable for their actions. 7. Advocating for D.C. Statehood: Pushing for D.C. statehood is crucial because it will enhance our local governance and strengthen our ability to fight for the rights and dignity of all residents. With statehood, we can have a stronger voice in advocating for policies that directly impact our immigrant community. By taking these actions and working collaboratively with community members, organizations, and local leaders, I believe we can create a more inclusive environment for immigrants in D.C. Together, we’ll ensure that every resident feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Bridget K. French
Did not submit a response.

Zachary Parker



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

My top three priorities are reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunity, increasing housing affordability, and improving educational outcomes. On poverty, I have already passed the historic District Child Tax Credit and will continue advancing policies that lower costs for families, strengthen workforce pathways, and protect vital supports like childcare and healthcare. On housing, I will push to produce more deeply affordable housing, modernize how DHCD deploys resources, strengthen tenant protections, and align zoning with our housing goals. On education, I am focused on addressing chronic truancy, strengthening school support systems, and ensuring our students are on track for long-term success and workforce readiness.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

I will confront antisemitism the same way I confront all forms of hate: clearly, consistently, and without qualification. That means using my voice to condemn antisemitic incidents and

rhetoric, supporting strong enforcement of hate crime laws, ensuring schools and public agencies respond appropriately to bias, and investing in education and prevention efforts that build understanding across communities. Antisemitism is real, dangerous, and unacceptable, and it must be treated with urgency alongside all forms of bigotry.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will not allow litmus tests or ideological gatekeeping to determine whether I engage with Jewish organizations. If an organization is serving the community, advancing civic participation, and acting in good faith, I will engage. My responsibility as an elected official is to work with a broad range of residents and institutions, not to blacklist people based on identity or political labels.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

I support ensuring that Jewish organizations and other nonprofits facing credible threats have access to the security resources they need. That includes strong coordination with public safety agencies, access to grants for security improvements, clear communication channels with law enforcement, and proactive threat assessment.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

I plan to increase affordable housing by pairing more production with deeper affordability and stronger execution. That means fully funding the Housing Production Trust Fund with a continued focus on residents at 30% of AMI and below, while adding flexibility to support mixed-income and workforce housing where gap financing can unlock more units. I will push DHCD to operate with greater speed and accountability—modernizing processes, improving coordination across underwriting and project delivery, and setting clear timelines so projects move from award to construction faster.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

I will defend Home Rule firmly and consistently. Congress and federal leadership do not get to dictate local policy simply because they disagree with decisions made by DC residents and their elected representatives. I have already fought congressional interference, educated others outside DC about Statehood, and mobilized residents to push back. Where federal engagement is necessary, I will work constructively, but I will not normalize federal overreach into matters that belong to the people of the District.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

I will support strong public schools by supporting the PACE Act for better facilities, pushing for more equitable and transparent funding, as

well as stronger attendance interventions, and investments in teacher retention and student support.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

I will continue fighting to protect the District as a place where immigrant families can live with dignity and safety. That means opposing MPD collaboration with federal immigration enforcement, protecting sanctuary policies, supporting legal services and language access, and ensuring immigrant families feel safe accessing schools, healthcare, and public services.

Candidates for Ward 6 Member of the Council

Gloria Ann Nauden



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

My three priorities are public safety, affordability, and community

economic opportunity — and they are deeply interconnected. On public safety, I support community policing and rebuilding MPD to full staffing, while continuing to invest in youth workforce programs that address the root causes of crime. I’ve connected hundreds of DC students to career pathways, and I know that opportunity is one of the most powerful public safety tools we have. On affordability, I’ll leverage my background in CDFI banking and public-private partnerships to expand affordable rental and homeownership options, support first-time buyers, and protect longtime Ward 6 residents from displacement. On community economic strength, I’ll draw on my work helping nearly 100 small businesses access capital and stabilize through hardship — and bring that same financial first-responder energy to Ward 6’s commercial corridors and neighborhood economies.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Hatred of any kind has no place in Ward 6 or Washington, DC. My entire career has been built on bringing people together across difference — across culture, commerce, and community. I come from a multicultural family, the daughter of an African American veteran and a Korean mother, and I have spent three decades building coalitions that center every voice. Confronting antisemitism means speaking up loudly and consistently, not just when it’s convenient or politically easy. It means using my platform on the Council to support legislation and community initiatives that protect Jewish residents and institutions, and to foster the cross-cultural dialogue that prevents hatred from taking root. Silence is complicity, and that is not how I lead.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

I will not yield to pressure that asks me to exclude any community from the table. My approach to leadership has always been to listen broadly and collaborate across difference — that’s how I’ve delivered results throughout my career. Jewish organizations that are doing important work in DC — in housing, education, healthcare, arts, and community development — are partners I will work with. I believe in the dignity and security of the Jewish people and their right to a homeland, and I also believe in the humanity and rights of all people. On complex geopolitical questions, I will engage with honesty and nuance. But I will never allow outside pressure to dictate which communities I serve or which organizations I partner with on behalf of Ward 6 residents.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

Every organization serving our community deserves to operate without fear. As someone who has worked alongside nonprofits and community institutions for decades, I understand how profoundly security concerns can disrupt mission-critical work. On the Council, I will advocate for adequate funding for security enhancement grants for at-risk nonprofits and houses of worship. I’ll push for strong partnerships between MPD and community organizations, ensure hate crime reporting and response protocols are robust, and work to make sure organizations in Ward 6 and across DC have access to the resources they need to protect their people and their spaces. No congregation, community center, or nonprofit should have to choose between staying open and staying safe.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

This is one of the most urgent challenges facing Ward 6 families, and I bring a rare combination of tools to it. As a CDFI banker, I’ve seen firsthand how public-private financing models can unlock affordable units, preserve existing stock, and support first-time buyers who have been priced out. On the Council, I will prioritize expanding the DC Housing Production Trust Fund, creating stronger anti-displacement protections for longtime residents, and incentivizing mixed-income development on underutilized and dormant commercial and public land. I also want to expand homeownership programs that build generational wealth — particularly for families who have been part of this city for decades. Affordability isn’t just a policy goal; it’s about keeping the people who built these neighborhoods in them.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

DC’s autonomy is not negotiable — it is essential to the self-determination of over 700,000 residents who pay federal taxes and serve in every branch of

the military, without a vote in Congress. I will be a fierce defender of Home Rule and DC statehood. At the same time, I am a pragmatist who knows that results matter. I will engage the federal government strategically, protecting DC’s legislative authority while pursuing every available avenue — federal partnerships, grants, and relationships — that advances the interests of Ward 6 residents. I won’t be combative for its own sake, but I won’t capitulate either. The line I hold is always: what is best for the people of this city?

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

As a single mother who has had children in both DC Public Schools and DC public charter schools, this is personal for me. I’ve lived the experience of navigating the system, advocating for my daughters, and seeing what works and what doesn’t. I believe every child in Ward 6 deserves an excellent school, regardless of which sector it’s in. On the Council, I’ll work to ensure equitable funding and facilities across both DCPS and charters, support strong teacher pipelines and retention, and champion career and technical education pathways that connect students to real economic opportunity. I’ve spent years creating youth internship programs at every organization I’ve led — that work starts in schools, and the Council should invest in it at scale.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

My mother came to this country, built small businesses, hired hundreds of people, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery alongside my father, a decorated American veteran. The immigrant story is my story. On the Council, I will be a consistent advocate for immigrant-inclusive policies — supporting access to city services regardless of immigration status, protecting residents from unjust federal overreach, and ensuring DC remains a welcoming city. I’ll work with immigrant-serving organizations to address barriers in housing, small business support, and workforce development. And I will use my relationships across the philanthropic and nonprofit sector to direct resources to communities that are too often overlooked. Every Ward 6 resident who calls this city home deserves to be treated with dignity and have a champion in their corner.

Charles Allen



What are the three most important issues to you and how will you address each?

The three most important issues are the cost of living, public safety, and DC’s economy. With respect to cost of living, there’s a lot we can do to lower utility bills for DC residents, for example. I have three bills currently before the Council that would speed up residential solar connections to the grid, limit hidden fees passed on to renters outside of the monthly rent, and help working families by auto-enrolling eligible residents in utility discount

programs. On public safety, we need to continue to improve hiring and retention at MPD while maintaining high standards, and also invest in communities to address root causes and intervene before violence takes place. On the economy, with Congress and Trump intervening daily, we need to work on creating new housing and spurring new business growth.

How will you confront antisemitism and other forms of hatred?

Antisemitism and other forms of hatred have no place here in DC, and I will continue to use my voice to denounce acts of antisemitism and other forms of hatred. I unfortunately have been called to do this here in DC all too often, with the two fatal shootings of Jewish community members at the Capitol Jewish Museum last year serving as a sobering example of how antisemitism and hatred can lead to violence. I’m unafraid to continue condemning antisemitism and hatred, as doing so will convey to Washingtonians that they’re not DC values.

How will you handle pressure from groups urging you to avoid working with Jewish organizations that support a Jewish Democratic state of Israel (“Zionism”)?

It has been my long-standing philosophy and practice to meet with organizations and constituents regardless of whether I see eye-to-eye with them on particular issues. I find that opening the door to conversations with those with whom I disagree can often lead to productive conversations in the end. Efforts to pressure me to avoid meeting or working with any organization is not the right approach. Employing such a litmus test is reductive and misses an opportunity to work toward solutions.

How will you address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits at risk of hate crimes?

The safety and security of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits in DC is especially important as we see a rise in antisemitism and other forms of hate. I have long worked with Jewish organizations in Ward 6 like the Capital Jewish Museum and Hill Havurah to ensure that their security and safety needs are met, and will continue to do so as the threat of antisemitism and risk of hate crimes increase. I also supported the inclusion of additional funding in the past few budgets to provide nonprofits at risk of hate crimes additional funding to make security improvements. I support the continuation of this funding, and I’m willing to help with other solutions to address security concerns of Jewish organizations and other nonprofits across DC at risk of hate crimes.

How do you plan to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC?

It goes without saying, but DC needs more affordable housing. We at the Council should do more to increase oversight on housing production generally and where affordable housing gets built. By setting annual goals and conducting public oversight, we can have a better understanding of whether these goals are or are not being met. We also need to employ creative strategies, and I’ve

worked to have the DC Green Bank be available to help provide gap financing for affordable housing developments, for example. Preservation of affordable housing is also important, and I’ve authored and passed legislation to reform important legal processes, like heirs’ property ownership and probate, to protect longtime homeowners and preserve housing stock.

How will you balance promoting and protecting DC’s autonomy with the current federal government leadership?

The only solution to the federal government’s intrusion and meddling in our local affairs is statehood, which I have consistently and fiercely defended for years, and not caving to demands. I have worked to develop relationships with members of Congress to help educate them about the importance of DC Statehood and to be our champions. I will also continue to be active in resident actions at the Capitol and elsewhere. When Home Rule or DC laws are threatened, I won’t stay silent or sit out the fight. As I’ve demonstrated, I will speak out and show up to declare clearly and loudly why DC Statehood is needed now more than ever.

How will you work to enhance both public and independent schools?

DC has made tremendous strides in public education in recent years, resulting in DC leading the nation in being the fastest growing urban school system. We need to continue the momentum. Sustained increases and investment through the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula, teacher salary increases, and progress in academic achievement have been critical to our current improvements. Going forward, we need to focus on addressing absenteeism and truancy, improving academic achievement to surpass pre-pandemic levels, and meaningfully addressing challenges when it comes to transportation to and from schools. These areas are ripe for legislation and budgetary enhancements so that public and independent schools continue to make tremendous strides.

How will you work to support the immigrant community?

The DC immigrant community has been vilified and persecuted by the federal government these past 15 months, and they are understandably frightened and fearful of what may happen to them or their neighbors in the coming years. Now is the time for DC to double down and support the immigrant community. I have supported the Council’s efforts to fund a pathway to legal residency for those DCPS educators that have an H1-B visa. They are a critical component of school communities, and DCPS needs to implement the funding immediately. Additionally, I will continue to support sufficient funding for the Access to Justice Initiative, which provides legal services to residents on issues like immigration status, housing, and domestic violence, to name a few. I also passed the District’s sanctuary law, which must be defended, and I’ve supported legislation to provide greater transparency into collaboration with federal law enforcement.

Michael Murphy

Did not submit a response.



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