



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) and the Washington Jewish Week (WJW) have teamed up to offer you this Voters Guide for the District of Columbia's June 21 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. Contested races include the Democratic primary for Mayor, Attorney General, At-large Councilmember and Wards 1, 3 and 5 Councilmember. While there are candidates for each of these positions from other parties (Republican, DC Statehood/Green and Libertarian), none of those candidates have challengers in the primary, so will be their party's nominee in the general election and are not included in this Guide to the Primary Election. We have provided each candidate's responses in full. Contact Vicki Fishman at the JCRC at vfishman@jcouncil.org with questions or for additional information about this guide.

Early voting begins June 10 and extends to June 19. Mail-in voting began May 27 and extends to June 21. More information about voting locations, mail-in ballot instructions, same day registration and more can be found at the following links:

District of Columbia Board of Elections - Primary Election 2022
(dcboe.org)

District of Columbia Board of Elections - Vote Center Locator Tool
(dcboe.org)

District of Columbia Board of Elections - Mail-in-Ballot Drop Box Locations (dcboe.org)

District of Columbia Board of Elections - Election Day Vote Centers
(dcboe.org)

District of Columbia Board of Elections - Mail-In Ballot Instructions
(dcboe.org)

DC Board of Elections - Early Vote Centers
(dcboe.org)

D.C. Voter's Guide

Candidates for Mayor of the District of Columbia

Muriel Bowser



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

In these unprecedented times, we have moved our city together, and despite all that we have faced, we have given more Washingtonians

a fair shot. But there are still challenges for us to tackle, and we have more work to do. As we've said throughout the pandemic, each of these challenges is also an opportunity – an opportunity to build a future that better matches our DC values and the needs of our community. I have been a strong voice for DC, I have made the tough decisions, and I have a track record of turning vision into results. I am the proven leader that is ready to lead the District into its comeback and to make our future work for all Washingtonians.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

When I first came into office in 2015, I vowed to tackle three issues that demanded attention. First, I promised to create more affordable housing. Second, I committed to making homelessness brief, rare, and non-reoccurring. Third, I committed to create a seat for every child in a quality school—no matter her zip code or her parent's tax bracket. We've made a lot of progress on these issues since then: we are investing \$1 billion to create 36,000 units of affordable housing; we demolished the DC General family shelter and reduced family homelessness by 73%; and DCPS has continued to be the fastest improving urban school district. Public school enrollment grew for 11 consecutive years. We have made steady improvements on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly called the Nation's Report Card. Since 2010, high school graduation rates have improved from 58% to 70%. My commitment, if reelected, is to double down on these issues while continuing to address other significant issues like racial equity, violent crime, food access, and environmental stewardship.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

The root cause of violent crime in the District is access to guns and a need for more services for those who are committing them. We know that a small group of people are responsible

for most gun violence, and that gun violence is particularly affecting concentrated areas. It is our goal to find, engage and transform their thinking, and to connect them to services, supports and opportunities. We also know that we need more police. My budget invests in hiring, recruiting, and retaining incentives to put the District back on the path to 4,000 sworn officers at MPD, with a focus on recruiting more DC residents and women to become DC police. I am the only candidate for Mayor committed to using every resource necessary to combat violent crime.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

- Affordable Housing: discussed at length elsewhere in this questionnaire.
- Ending Homeless: discussed at length elsewhere in this questionnaire.
- Food Access: The pandemic exposed challenges within our food system that I am committed to addressing. For instance, we created a \$58 million fund to attract grocers, restaurants, and other food sellers to underserved parts of the city, and also made changes to an existing tax break for supermarkets so that it was more focused on those areas. We've also developed a plan to expand food access, create good-paying jobs, and boost the local economy. The plan ensures 162K residents have access to fresh food within a mile of their home. We worked to give thriving businesses throughout DC incentives to expand into Wards 7 and 8, distributing nearly \$10M to fresh food businesses and there will be millions more for that purpose this year and next. And, I am proud to say, that after decades of living in food deserts, we were able to open two grocery stores in Ward 8, and a new grocer in Ward 7, with more coming this year. Our residents and families east of the river deserve an array of fresh and healthy food options and we will not stop until that goal is fulfilled.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Perhaps no other state welcomes and relies upon nonprofits as ours. Our non-profits are a source of pride, of jobs, of moral and intellectual leadership, of social services, of vitality and vibrancy. Our government frequently partners with and supports nonprofits through a variety of programs, contracts, grants and tax treatment. As long as I am Mayor, that will remain so. I would welcome an opportunity to learn more about what the JCRC means by public support/partnership with nonprofit organizations. The lack of affordable housing impacts a variety of social welfare issues – from ensuring that those who serve (or have served) our community, such as teachers, first responders, veterans and other government employees, can live in it, to allowing us to provide sanctuary for those fleeing war and persecution, to providing for the unhoused and protecting long-time residents from being displaced and replaced by economic development.

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

By continuing to do what we have been doing since I first took office. Namely, when I first ran to be your Mayor, I promised to invest more in affordable housing than any mayor before and that's just what we've done. The unsafe, undignified family shelter at DC General was demolished in 2018. This year we opened our 7th, brand new, service-enriched family shelter. The average shelter stay has been reduced to 90 days, homelessness is down 47% since 2016, and family homelessness is down 73%. We set a historic goal of creating 12,000 units of affordable housing and since taking office, we've made historic investments in housing, including a \$500 million investment announced this year, for a 7-year total of \$1B. That's money well-spent. We've had more housing growth than any other state. There's more to do and my commitment is to continue to push so all families a pathway to the middle class. In the past few years, the FBI, ADL, the Metropolitan Police Department and others have reported a spike in hate crimes generally and antisemitic incidents specifically.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

I will begin by stating my unwavering commitment to protecting institutions of faith, like and especially synagogues, from hate and violence. Intolerance, bigotry, and hate have no place in Washington, DC and I will use every resource in my authority to combat it. We value and celebrate our diversity and inclusivity and will not tolerate attempts to intimidate or harass our residents and visitors. For instance, on the heels of a reprehensible anti-Semitic attack in New York, I met with local religious leaders to discuss immediate and long-term solutions to combatting anti-Semitism. In addition, I was joined by members of my Interfaith Council and leadership from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), and the Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs. That meeting was an important opportunity for our community to come together and make clear that we will always stand united in love and to fight anti-Semitism. I have also directed D.C. police to provide increased attention to Jewish institutions as well as taking other, less visible, measures to protect DC's Jewish community, including working to identify potential funding sources for increased security. Additionally, I directed DC HSEMA with assisting congregations with reviewing their security plans. Both agencies will support congregations in updating their plans as necessary. I also signed into law the Community Harassment Prevention Emergency Amendment Act, which makes it unlawful to display symbols of hate on public property or someone else's property. By working together and supporting one another, we will continue to promote DC values of love, inclusion, and diversity. Together, we will send a clear message: In DC, we stand up for our neighbors, we denounce anti-Semitism and hatred in all forms, and we work continuously and with a sense of urgency for peace and safety on our streets, in our homes, and in our places of worship.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I have not and will not support legislation in Washington, DC similar to bills considered in other jurisdictions that single-out Israel.

What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel? (Optional)

I led a trade delegation trip to Israel, which included leaders of the District's Jewish community, which has resulted in closer cultural and economic ties between the District and Israel and I look forward to continuing to find opportunities to strengthen those relationships in the future.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported, should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. Our goal is to train our students to be compassionate, cosmopolitan, global workers, thinkers, and leaders. To do so, we must expose them to and train them on global history and geopolitical history ancient and contemporary, including of course the teaching of Jewish history.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels, flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

I am immensely proud of the work my administration has done to make the District an international leader in tackling climate change, cutting pollution, reducing waste, and making the nation's capital more sustainable, and more resilient. Our progress over the last decade is undeniable and shows that it is possible for a large city to grow and prosper while simultaneously shrinking its carbon footprint. To summarize, we have joined 18 global cities in pledging to ensure that all buildings, existing and new, will meet net-zero carbon standards by 2050; joined 23 global cities in pledging to cut the amount of waste used by citizens by 15%, reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills by 50%, and increase the amount of waste diverted to 70% by 2030. We have drafted and adopted DC's energy and climate action plan, Clean Energy DC, drafted and updated the Sustainable DC plan, a strategy that focuses on infusing equity into all of the city's sustainability, energy, and climate planning and implementation. The initiative establishes goals and targets for responding to climate change, including a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2006 levels by 2032 and 100% by 2050. These are only a small sampling of our accomplishments. While we recognize and celebrate this progress,

we also know there is more work to do. DC will continue to invest in and support programs and policies that put us on a path to a greener, more sustainable, and more resilient future. And we will do this through a social equity lens. We must equitably deploy policies and strategies that do not perpetuate inequities. While equity includes gender, age, ethnicity, social class, language, sexual preference, and mental and physical ability, it must start with race

James Butler

Did not submit a response

Robert White



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

In my lifetime, I have seen wealth brought into the city at an incredible rate, but too many people have not benefited and feel left behind and forgotten by our city.

It is time we use the wealth and growth of our city to benefit all of our residents. DC has incredible potential but we need visionary leadership to achieve it. As mayor, I will recenter our people and make our government work for all our residents. I will set ambitious goals and provide transparency so I can be held accountable. We don't need four more years of the status quo. We need a visionary plan to take our city to the next level.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1: My top priority will be to curb rising rates of violence and ensure we all feel safe in our city. We need to focus our police resources on public safety, instead of using them as a catchall for every problem. In addition, People who have good jobs, safe housing, and the mental health resources they need generally do not commit violent crimes. We need to take a proactive approach to eliminate the conditions that lead to crime, such as unemployment, homelessness, mental health, and drug addiction. We also need to seriously expand our violence interruption efforts. We must professionalize, train and adequately compensate violence interrupters who are trusted community members and can help target the people most likely to become involved with violence and get them on a safer, more productive path.

2: Education is the backbone of equity. We are experiencing a crisis in education that the current administration refuses to acknowledge. Only 40% of Black and brown students are reading at grade level. This is unacceptable. As mayor, I will focus on closing the opportunity gap, retaining talented teachers, and listening to all parents to rebuild the broken trust in our public schools

3: We need to address our affordable housing crisis by dramatically increasing the number of affordable units in all areas of our city. We

need to work with developers to incentivize affordable housing. We also need to encourage building affordable family-sized units so that native Washingtonians and long-time residents, as well as newcomers, are able to establish families and raise children in the district. As mayor, I will continue the work I have started as a Councilmember to work with experts and come up with creative solutions that we will move rapidly to implement.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

A trustworthy police department is crucial for a safe city. When people do not trust the police, they do not work with officers to solve crimes and may turn to violence to address conflict and protect themselves from further victimization. Reconciliation between communities and police must be initiated by the police, or it won't happen. Government leaders and police need to take accountability for past harm and commit to listening to communities to determine how they can do better. We also need to foster a culture of active bystandership among officers. MPD officers should be incentivized to hold each other accountable and report malfeasance by their peers. Officers should be duty-bound to intervene when they see a peer engaging in excessive force or otherwise failing to appropriately police. DC leaders need to impose consequences for officers who misuse power as well as officers who fail to intervene or are complicit in misconduct. These need to be clear in both legal standards and MPD General Orders. Our police officers need to be better integrated into our communities to encourage trust and communication between the public and officers. One way we can do this is to encourage officers to spend more time on foot in well-trafficked areas. By getting out of their squad cars, police officers will feel more approachable and less intimidating and will have more opportunities for positive interactions with the people they are serving

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

1: I helped write the Birth to Three For All DC Act to expand access to early childhood development while stabilizing this important industry. The passage of Birth to Three was a historic step but since its passage, the mayor has failed it, limiting the program's impact. As Mayor, not only will I fully fund early childhood education, but I will create universal early childhood education so all young children can take advantage of their most critical learning years and so parents don't have to leave the workforce because of the cost of childcare.

2: One of my priorities in office has been to increase the services we provide to returning citizens. This is personal to me as I saw my own brother struggle with the reentry process. I led the Council in doubling the staff at the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizen Affairs and wrote and funded legislation to bring down barriers so returning citizens can find good-paying jobs. I also introduced legislation to make DC the first jurisdiction to restore voting rights to all incarcerated people. As Mayor, I will continue to ensure returning citizens have employment

opportunities, access to housing, and government support as they reenter our communities.

3: We need to continue to provide support to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and alleviate the burden of high housing costs for low-income residents in the midst of our affordable housing crisis. Year in and year out, the mayor's budget fails to invest in vouchers outside of the homeless services system. This year, it is zero. That will change when I am Mayor because I know we need to do everything we can to make sure DC families aren't experiencing homelessness and are able to stay in our city.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Nonprofit organizations are incredible partners to the government and we need to be listening to them and learning from their work in our communities. Nonprofit organizations understand aspects of the work and can reach communities in ways that the government can't. We need to better partner with nonprofit organizations and fully utilize what they can bring to our city. We also must turn the page on pay-to-play politics where only nonprofits that actively support the Mayor can get funding and resources.

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

The Council has several means at its disposal to promote the production of affordable housing. Such as:

1. Ensuring that inclusionary zoning laws apply throughout the District of Columbia. Since the passing of inclusionary zoning laws, our Comprehensive Plans have allowed wide swaths of the city to be exempt from the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments. Major development zones such as NoMa are not required to include income-restricted units, while market-rate rents exclude low to moderate income renters and condominium buyers.
2. We have no real rent-control or rent-stabilization laws. Rent control applies to increasingly aging buildings and units, while new developments can raise rents at will, often pricing out long-term renters.
3. Developments approved for the construction of subsidized, or income-restricted, housing should not be allowed to jettison lower-income units after approval and receipt of government incentives.
4. Identifying abandoned and vacant homes and providing purchase assistance to bring these properties back into circulation as affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The constant threat and assault on minority communities, particularly in places of worship, is alarming. In these instances, an individual (or group of individuals) has deliberately planned to execute an act of terrorism. At that point, the perpetrator of violence cannot hide behind a dubious claim that they are battling a mental

health issue and must be held accountable. As the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations & Facilities, I have oversight of the Office of Human Rights. In the last few years, OHR has gotten massive budget and personnel increases. What the agency needs now is strong, steady leadership. The interim director has already been fixing many of the agency's long-standing issues. I have provided consistent oversight to stabilize the agency. As mayor, I will make sure we have experienced leaders across the agency who are focused on closing the case backlog and protecting residents. In addition, it is crucial that we include those most vulnerable in our discussions on this issue and ask them what they need to feel safer in our city.

BDS

I am eager to speak more with the Jewish community on this issue.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Jewish history and culture should absolutely be considered as DCPS moves forward with updating its curriculum and practices. Education is fundamental to countering prejudice and ending bias. Given the number of museums and historic synagogues in our area, there are many opportunities for experiential learning to supplement coursework. I will work with community leaders, like the Jewish Community Relations Council, to determine where we can find opportunities in curriculums to incorporate Jewish history. In addition, I will increase transparency and accountability in our education system so we can ensure we are meeting the needs of all students, including our Jewish students.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Under my administration, I will implement a historic climate jobs guarantee program so every single person who wants a job will be offered one. This massive workforce will not only make our city safer, but it will allow us to tackle one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change. This program will put people to work addressing the impacts of climate change and building resiliency and sustainability in our infrastructure. These jobs will accelerate DC's progress on the goals of decarbonization, ending reliance on fossil fuels and promoting energy efficiency in housing and transportation, increasing pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, protecting our city's waterways, ensuring food justice, and removing lead pipes.

Trayon White

Did not submit a response



Candidates For Chairman Of The Council

Phil Mendelson



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have the experience, skill, and progressive values. Go to www.mendelsonforchairman.com to see my record – and my commitment to continue working on public safety, resolving

the affordable housing crisis, improving public education, fixing the environment, etc. But being chairman of the Council is more than just where I stand on issues, it is the ability to work with colleagues, forge consensus, and get things done (unlike the other legislative body in DC). I have 10 years' experience getting important, sometimes controversial, legislation adopted. I know how to legislate. I also know how to represent the Council before Congress, work with the Mayor, and sometimes stand up to the Mayor. I'm the one who got marriage equality passed into law without Congressional interference; I'm the one who got budget autonomy for the District after suing (friendly) the Mayor and CFO; I'm the one who got the Home Rule Act amended to give us an elected Attorney General; and I'm the one who got us Universal Paid Leave despite opposition from the Mayor and a number of councilmembers.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

First, to work with the Mayor to turn the corner on rising criminal violence. Before I became Chairman of the Council I chaired the Council's Judiciary Committee where I worked closely with then-Chief Cathy Lanier. The year I stepped down to become Chairman of the Council, there were 88 homicides (last year there were 226). We can – and must – get back to there. Second, each year I work hard to find additional funding to deal with some aspect of the affordable housing crisis. For next year the Council has approved my proposal to add 400 vouchers for homeless families exiting rapid rehousing. (See more below) Third, I will be focused on improving public education. Already I am getting more money into individual schools, especially in low-income neighborhoods where resources are badly needed. My next steps will be to reduce principal/teacher turnover, reduce absenteeism, and increase school autonomy. Finally, it is critical that the District government remain in good financial condition. I will do everything I can to ensure colleagues reach consensus; to put compromise above ideological rigidity. I put through the Council arguably the best government-run universal paid leave law in the country despite close votes and Mayoral opposition. I got ahead of potential business opposition to increasing the minimum wage (to \$15) by working in tandem with councilmembers in Montgomery and Prince Georges counties. Last year we adopted a new Comprehensive Plan to guide land use and development; this year we adopted Ward redistricting; every year we adopt an annual budget –

and in every instance we've done so with unanimity.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

We can do both. We can increase police resources to fight crime while reforming the system. I have legislation pending based on the Police Reform Commission's recommendations for strengthened accountability: a stronger, independent Police Complaints Board, and a new Deputy Auditor for Public Safety. I also introduced what is now law that prohibits the Fraternal Order of Police from bargaining its own discipline process. On the other side of the coin, there are strategies that will improve public safety: pressing on MPD to close more cases, more quickly – and giving MPD the resources it needs to do this; putting more emphasis on criminal intelligence (e.g., knowing the gangs and anticipating retaliatory shootings); using focused deterrence to go after known, repeat offenders; pushing the U.S. Attorney to be more aggressive in prosecutions (e.g., not dropping or reducing charges); and making the rebuilding of community trust a higher priority, because citizens will come forward with tips, and as witnesses, if they trust that they will be safe and that law enforcement will successfully arrest, lock up, and prosecute criminals.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

It's hard to rank and say three are more important than other social justice issues, but I would answer: jobs, homelessness, and access to justice. First, having a job, of course, is key to overcoming social welfare issues. Quality job training, obviously, can help. But long term, quality education is the best job training program. As I indicated above, improving education is one of my top priorities. Second, one measure of society is its homeless population – how many, and how we treat them. Homelessness is the worst aspect of the affordable housing crisis, and placing homeless individuals and families in housing is critical to giving them stability and therefore the chance to work their way out of homelessness. Third, the Access to Justice Initiative is arguably the most effective social justice program the city funds; the money goes to hire attorneys to represent the poor, to protect them from eviction and to secure every social welfare benefit available to them. Arguably, the lack of access to representation is the biggest factor in keeping people in poverty. This year I increased the Access to Justice funding by 50% – from \$21 million to \$32 million – one of the largest programs in the country.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

I support this. Nonprofit organizations are critical to the delivery of so many services to our residents, typically through contracts but sometimes by public-private partnerships. There is a law on the books, which I wrote, which encourages public-private partnerships. And so many city contracts, such as for mental health services, literacy tutoring in schools, and violence interrupters are through city contracts with nonprofits.

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

What I will do: I will support robust funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund which is our primary initiative to create more affordable

housing. I will support tax abatements for new housing developments if they include a substantial amount of affordable housing – and to the extent determined to be necessary by an independent tax abatement financial analysis. I will continue to support different strategies that preserve or increase the supply of affordable housing. This year I supported the Mayor's proposal to put \$450 million in the Housing Production Trust Fund – more than double the year before. If you look at my record (<https://www.mendelsonforchairman.com/housing>) you will see that I'm the one who moved to extend rent control for 10 years, I'm the one who rewrote the Mayor's Comprehensive Plan to make affordable housing the highest priority in land use decision making. I introduced and got through the Council major reforms to the eviction process. I authored legislation, enacted last fall, to expand access to emergency rental assistance. And I have supported additional strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing in DC.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I realize that many local synagogues have resorted to hiring off-duty police officers for protection. The city must step up to ensure additional protection. In addition, I hope the District government is sharing any cyber threats it learns of in the course of its homeland security surveillance. When I chaired the Council's Judiciary Committee I held hearings on hate crimes and how law enforcement responds; this put pressure on police and prosecutors to take hate crimes more seriously. The Council should return to this. The Council also must repeatedly make statements that hate crimes are not to be tolerated in the District; that we welcome all faiths and all ethnicities; that diversity is an asset that makes our city richer. On this I have worked with JCRC in the past and will continue to do so.

BDS

I do not support it and have worked with the JCRC on this.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

Of course I would be supportive of an economic relationship between DC and Israel, but international trade is the purview of the federal government and this is not an area ripe for local initiative. Nevertheless, I am open to supporting any specific initiatives that may be proposed.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes, Jewish history must be part of any social studies curriculum. My latest information is that the District plans to update its social studies standards by the end of this year. These standards will include aspects such as understanding the 19th-early 20th century immigration to America from eastern Europe and the Holocaust.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive

weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

My re-election has been endorsed by the Sierra Club because I have a solid record on environmental issues which you can find at <https://www.mendelsonforchairman.com/environment>. In my earliest days on the Council I authored the tree bill, now law, to preserve and grow the city's tree canopy; moving forward I intend to work with Casey Trees to strengthen this law. More recently I co-introduced the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 (now DC Law 22-257) which requires that by 2032 all electricity be generated from renewable sources (no more fossil fuels), incentivizes solar power in the District, establishes building energy performance standards to reduce environmental impacts, clarifies that the Public Service Commission must consider environmental impacts in its regulation of utilities, etc. This is one of the most advanced climate change bills of any state. Last year I co-introduced Bill 24-267, the Climate Commitment Act of 2021 requiring carbon neutrality. I intend to support Bill 24-420, the Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act of 2021 when it comes out of committee. This year I have led the District government in pressing WMATA to accelerate the electrification of its bus fleet. Two of the biggest contributors to climate change are building standards and transportation. The District should require that new buildings be all-electric, after a phase-in period. This will enable the necessary transition to an electrical grid that is all-renewable. Electrification of bus fleets and making it easier for private electric vehicles to access charging stations will significantly reduce the climate-change impact of the transportation sector. Personally, I drive an EV (Chevy Bolt).

Erin Palmer



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am a mom, an ethics lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. I'm running to bring new energy, vision, and compassion to DC's challenges. The recent release of a

draft Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v Wade* is an important reminder that we cannot take our rights for granted. We must be dedicated at the local level to working intentionally to support our communities with the most need. I am passionate about empowering our legislature to meet the demands of the job, rather than letting its authority slip and languish, as we've seen for years. I am the only candidate who is offering a pathway to best serve our most vulnerable communities and ensure a brighter future for all DC residents. I bring deep experience in good government and institutional accountability. Leadership that is committed to improved performance and accountability is important for all operations, from the budget to legislation to day-to-day oversight. I am the only candidate in this race with a plan for a more modern, more ethical, and more accountable DC Council. My DC Council Accountability Plan will empower the Council to legislate and conduct oversight well and efficiently, so our government works to the benefit of all DC residents, particularly those who have been the most underserved. I am also the first and only candidate for DC Council Chair to participate in and qualify for DC's Fair Elections program. By forgoing corporate

and political action committee donations, I am dedicated to being engaged with and accountable to DC residents, not corporations and their lobbyists. Most importantly, I believe that DC residents should have trust and confidence in their legislature, and my plans for accountability, education, community safety, housing, and transportation are the first steps along the path toward a more robust and effective DC Council.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

A More Trustworthy and Effective DC Council: I strongly believe in good government and institutional accountability. My DC Council Accountability Plan is the first-ever comprehensive, evidence-based plan to build a more modern, ethical, and accountable DC Council. The Plan is rooted in my professional expertise as an ethics and accountability lawyer. It proposes a number of measures to empower the DC Council's legislative and oversight function, strengthen the Council's ethics and accountability, ensure inclusive and accessible Council proceedings, and support Council workers and workplace accountability. A high-functioning, ethical DC Council best serves DC residents. Meeting Residents' Basic Needs for Safe and Stable Communities: I am dedicated to values-based leadership that strives to meet DC residents' basic needs. We know that every map of DC is the same. Whether we are talking about housing stability, access to healthy food, high-quality education, patient-centered healthcare, or community safety, we are seeing the results of decades of chronic disinvestment. Building a more equitable city means not only ending patterns of discrimination but providing more resources to right historic wrongs – things like green spaces, grocery stores, and dedicated efforts to end poverty. Consistent, values-based leadership can correct for chronic disinvestment and make us safer. Ensuring a Resilient DC by Fighting Climate Change: Climate change is upon us, and the consequences are widespread and intensifying. We must invest heavily in robust, reliable, accessible, and affordable public transportation; building infrastructure that encourages people to drive less and makes our streets safer; and using green infrastructure at every opportunity. Climate change isn't just an environmental issue; it is a housing, healthcare, and racial justice issue. Every government action needs to be viewed through a climate lens, and I plan to institute a Council Office on Environmental Justice and Sustainability to review all government actions.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

All DC residents deserve safe, stable, and secure communities. We know the safest communities are the ones with resources and stability. As long as people's basic needs remain unmet – things like secure and stable housing, healthy food, high-quality healthcare, and economic security through education and employment – our city will not be as safe as it could be. Making our communities safer will require sustained, intentional investments in violence prevention and intervention in communities that have faced longstanding disinvestment, including trauma-informed support for communities impacted by violence. We must focus on preventing and intervening – and not just reacting – to violence to address the root causes of violence and strengthen our communities. Concentrating our efforts on reacting to violence has cost DC billions of dollars and failed to result in safer communities. DC residents broadly support investing in support for our neighbors and violence prevention and intervention to keep our communities safe. My Plan for Safe, Stable, and Secure Communities

includes three critical strategies: meeting residents' basic needs as rights, meaningfully investing in violence intervention, and demanding accountable public safety agencies that serve DC residents. More specifically, my Plan calls for a focus on investing in evidence-based and meaningful crime prevention, targeted and coordinated efforts using data-based insights, smart and effective emergency response systems, accountable policing, and better DC Council oversight. A safer and stronger DC is possible. It requires values-based leadership dedicated to meeting people's needs and supporting our communities. We can use data and facts to double down on the programs that work and save lives. It's time for new energy, vision, and compassion to keep our communities safe.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

I believe in meeting DC residents' basic needs as rights. Secure and stable communities are safe communities. Yet, every map of DC is the same. Whether we are talking about housing stability, access to healthy food, high-quality education, patient-centered healthcare, or community safety, we are seeing the results of decades of chronic disinvestment. Consistent, values-based leadership can correct for this chronic disinvestment and make us safer. All DC residents deserve to have their basic needs met in three key areas, and I have detailed plans on each: 1) safety – including safe streets and communities; 2) housing; and 3) education. While I discussed my Plan for Safe, Stable, and Secure Communities in the prior question, having safe streets is equally important. My Safe Streets Infrastructure and Public Transportation Plan outlines proposals to make our streets safer by design, improve and expand public transportation, and strengthen our neighborhoods with services and amenities so people don't need to drive as often. I believe that DC residents deserve safe housing and a government that proactively protects tenants through a public health and racial equity lens. The proposals in my Safe Housing Action Plan will strengthen our regulation of housing by detecting, fixing, and preventing housing code violations, as well as preventing the degradation of buildings that results in demolition or sale and displacement of neighbors. Finally, our leadership can treat education as a right – not a business or expense. Driven by the values-based proposition that every DC resident deserves high-quality, equitable public education, my Plan for Public Education as a Right will improve outcomes for students, families, and school staff by fully and equitably funding our public schools; engaging in real education oversight; and ensuring safe and healthy school buildings.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

I believe that a healthy DC government maintains and builds on strong relationships with community-based, nonprofit organizations. I work with many nonprofit organizations in my role as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and as a Board Member of a Main Street program, and I have heard repeatedly that maintaining relationships and needed resources can be challenging. First, we can improve on these challenges through more effective oversight and support of the partnerships DC already has. While we must ensure that government funds are used wisely, we cannot insist on overly burdensome or complicated processes that exclude smaller nonprofits. Second, we can revitalize the discussion around the best mechanisms and pathways to partner with nonprofits in DC. I want to hear from more organizations about their successes and struggles so that together we can ensure our nonprofit organizations are getting the clear guidance and support they need to serve our

residents. Finally, I believe in building on data-driven solutions, and my DC Council Accountability Plan calls for greater use of nonpartisan institutionalized support staff and resources to track data and conduct robust oversight. This will allow the DC government to double-down on data-driven programs and solutions to DC's challenges, including successful programs and work with nonprofit organizations throughout DC.

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

I believe housing is a human right and all DC residents are entitled to safe, stable, and secure housing. My beliefs are rooted in my personal experience: my biological father died on the street while homeless. It's a constant reminder that there is no reason, excuse, or justification for not taking every step we can to provide everyone the dignity of a home. We must maintain what affordable housing we have. My Safe Housing Action Plan addresses the need for more inspectors and more proactive inspections to ensure healthy housing for all DC residents. I have repeatedly called for sustained local funding for public housing repairs and measures to hold the DC Housing Authority accountable. I support expanding the number of rent controlled apartments. And I believe in a housing-first compassionate approach to encampments, instead of the evictions that resulted in bulldozing an unhoused neighbor. As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I formed the first-ever Housing Justice Committee to maximize affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing in our neighborhood. We've succeeded in welcoming more affordable (including deeply affordable), workforce, and market rate housing than almost any other area in DC. My emphasis on government oversight – as detailed in my DC Council Accountability Plan – is crucial to ensure our housing efforts are successful. We know the Housing Production Trust Fund – our primary affordable housing tool – has repeatedly failed to meet its mandate to provide deeply affordable housing and that greater oversight is essential. As Chairwoman, I will scrutinize deals that involve public land, ensuring that deeply affordable and family-sized units are maximized on those valuable sites. Anything less is a lost opportunity to meaningfully grow our affordable housing stock. I am dedicated to making sure DC is expanding affordable housing through bold affordable housing ideas like social housing and community land trusts.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

First, I want to say that I hear and understand these concerns. After recent horrifying events and escalating threats to the safety of synagogues and other houses of worship, the question is important and serious. DC has not been immune to these incidents. In 2020 two DC churches were attacked by a white supremacist group that burned their signs, and law enforcement did little to protect them. Our faith-based organizations and houses of worship have been even more important during the pandemic. Continuing to ensure that DC residents have these safe spaces to gather is critical in our recovery. I will prioritize listening to and learning from local synagogues and faith-based leadership to understand current needs and concerns. I also think it is possible to act quickly to ensure that houses of worship have the resources needed for their congregations to gather safely. Our responses to safety concerns must meet the need for safety and security while also being nuanced. I recognize that resources for security services may not be the best fit for every house of worship or faith-based organization, and I will work with these organizations

to develop and support the community-based structures needed to ensure all congregations and staff have what is needed to feel safe. These efforts will take coordination with the Executive branch on multiple fronts, from community safety to potential new grant opportunities, and I am committed to working with the administration to ensure needs are met. Finally, we know that the safest communities are those that are stable and secure. That is why I have a comprehensive community safety plan rooted in science and data to make all our communities stronger.

BDS

See next question.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

[I am answering the above question regarding Boycott Divestment and Sanctions here because the space was limited to less than one sentence above.] I stand against antisemitism in all shapes and forms, and I am deeply concerned about increasing antisemitism locally and nationally, including links between white supremacy and antisemitism that we cannot ignore. As others before me have said, from Hillary Clinton to Bernie Sanders – antisemitism is likely contributing to the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement, and we would should call out antisemitism when it is there. I also do not believe that the Boycott Divestment and Sanction movement is the most productive way to criticize the Israeli government and has not been without harm to Israelis and Jews across the diaspora – despite my belief that Israeli government criticism is increasingly warranted. Criticizing our governments is a key part of a healthy democracy, and as someone who has practiced in the area of human rights and international law, we have to recognize and protect the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people. Finally, I support the first amendment right of all Americans to boycott and protest and believe this right should be protected – we know that whether buses or grapes or tea, boycotts have long been a part of American speech and debate.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes, absolutely. Notably, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, our state education agency, is updating its outdated social studies standards now. These new standards will apply to all local education agencies, including DC Public Schools, and will be implemented in the 2023-24 school year. The State Board of Education, which will ultimately approve the new standards, has provided set of guiding principles to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education that include several key aspects related to understanding Jewish history and supporting Jewish students. More specifically, the final set of guiding principles highlight the need to recognize currently under-represented groups, including religious minorities, have an orientation toward teaching “hard history” in both US and world history, create “windows and mirrors” for DC students to see others and seem themselves reflected in curriculum, and ensure the inclusion of additional disciplinary content “like economics, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and religion/spirituality.” Once these standards are complete, it will be important to ensure that they do not include any potentially discriminatory content and that they represent Jewish students in DC. Further, as there is always a divide between standards and actual classroom implementation, it will be important to continue to monitor their use across all of our public

schools. The State Board of Education has been a critical window into the current implementation of the outgoing standards. As Chairwoman, I will continue to look to them for ongoing monitoring, as well as to our many faith-based organizations. Finally, as mentioned above, this is an area of great opportunity to support ongoing partnerships between DC government and local nonprofit organizations. For example, the partnership between the Holocaust Memorial Museum and DC Public Schools, among others, must be supported and sustained.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising

water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

I supported and advocated for passage of the Fair Elections program so that DC residents could make their voices heard. Being accountable to DC residents is especially important for climate interests, where fossil fuel corporations, construction companies, and other business interests have long held sway over our elected officials. I care about the health of our planet and city, righting the wrongs of chronic disinvestment in our neighbors East of the Anacostia River, and building a brighter future for our kids. I believe every government action needs to be viewed

through a climate lens, and I plan to institute a Council Office on Environmental Sustainability and Justice — similar to the Council Office on Racial Equity — that reviews DC government actions for their impacts on environmental sustainability and justice. A good example are the potential large-scale developments on the RFK stadium site and Poplar Point. Together these sites have the potential to be 300 acres of riparian habitat adjacent to the Anacostia River. They are eyed for development, but they could provide important stormwater and flood management benefits, as well as wildlife habitats. In developing plans for these sites, it will be vital to ensure that input from the surrounding communities, as well as environmental data are

incorporated into the design process. At root, public land is an asset, and we must take every effort to use public land well and in service of our city. I know that housing can coexist with stormwater management in a way that's mutually beneficial, and I've done it as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Together with neighbors, I led the first cooperative neighborhood-wide stormwater management effort through the District Department of Energy and Environment's Community Stormwater Solutions Grant. Rather than mitigation on an individual level, cooperative efforts like these prove that holistic solutions are possible.



Candidates for At-Large Member of the Council

Anita Bonds



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am running for reelection to continue public service as an At-large member of the DC Council because I have a proven record of dedicated service of creating and organizing public policy initiatives

that improve District government services and programs. I approach my work with consideration for the District as a whole. I am independent and not held back by special interests or favor. My experience as a 4-term Advisory Neighborhood Commission Chairperson, my public-sector service with local and national non-profits, and my private-sector work have all helped shape my belief that inclusion, fairness, responsiveness and accountability must be a part of my leadership style. I am committed and energized to continue reasonable, resourceful, results-driven leadership through legislation, oversight and constituent services.

During my tenure as Chair of the Committee on Housing and Executive Administration, the city has secured record investments in the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF), including nearly \$500 million in the FY23 Budget and added 10,000 new affordable units. We also increased the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) grant amount from \$55,000 to \$80,000. Now, that amount is proposed to increase to \$202,000 maximum amount in FY23, and I further set \$70,000 as the minimum amount of this grant assisting first-time home buyers. I also placed moratoriums on both the voluntary agreements that have hurt our tenants and the certificates of assurance that cost our city money. People know that I am a persistent, collaborative and compassionate hard worker, and that is why I have received the most endorsements of any candidate in the race, including endorsements from the DC Firefighters, AFSCME, LiUNA, AFGE, Teamsters, UNITE HERE, and DC Women in Politics, the Nightlife and Hospitality Council and the DC Realtors. Vote for Anita Bonds for At-large Council in the June 21st Democratic Primary. I am #3 on the ballot. Priorities

As I represent the interests of the people of our incredible city, my priority is working to make the District a more equitable and unified community by enacting policies, creating services and holding agencies accountable for generating measurable results, improvements and quality living for the residents, businesses, workers and visitors.

I am focused on improving service delivery gaps including 1) Increasing affordable housing for the “moderate-to-middle income households and working families by building 2 and 3 bedroom multi-family apartments, expand homeownership opportunities citywide, and repair and return to occupancy hundreds of aging and broken public housing units annually; 2) Addressing mounting issues concerning seniors and residents wishing to age in the District through programs devoted to maintaining and improving nutrition, health outcomes, housing resources, employment, curtailing financial and domestic abuse, ending displacement, greater focus on grandparents raising young relatives, and tackling the extreme low-rate of literacy among seniors; 3) Improve public safety outcomes with increased police visibility, patrols and public safety activities in residential neighborhoods, a more robust diverse hiring process that emphasizes the hiring of DC residents, female officers, and minority officers while also increasing the available support services, interventions and expanding the placement of interrupters in communities in strife, and hold those responsible for offenses accountable, and make sure that we allocate at-risk student funding directly to every DC public and charter school.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I joined with Councilmember Gray to establish the DC Police Reform Commission as an amendment to the comprehensive policing and public safety reform legislation that was considered by the Council in 2020. As members of the Judiciary Committee, we strongly felt that the challenges of the murder of George Floyd and too many persons of color by police forces nationwide and escalating youth on youth homicides, were too important for the DC Council to address through a piecemeal, ad-hoc approach, which is why we worked together to stand up the Commission so that sweeping reforms could be implemented through a process of comprehensive review. The Commission findings point to the community's need for accountability from our youth, public safety is a two-way process. Ultimately, the District must focus more on improving the lives of our young people.

One of the more promising violence-fighting initiatives in Building Blocks. We know that a small percentage of people commit a very large percentage

of gun related offenses, and Building Blocks will target outreach to those people. I am proud that the program will offer mini-grants to individuals and organizations who will create innovative programs to reduce gun violence in the District of Columbia. This program will allow us to identify high-performing organizations and replicate their programming efforts on a larger scale in the District.

Also, I want to see improved public safety outcomes with increased police visibility, patrols and public safety activities in residential neighborhoods, a more robust diverse hiring process that emphasizes the hiring of DC residents, female officers, and minority officers while also increasing supports, intervention services, expanding the placement of interrupters in communities in strife, and holding those responsible for offenses accountable, including detaining until trial, persons charged with violent offenses.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

1. Prioritize providing outreach, services, and educational opportunities to DC children and youth residing in or affected by neighborhoods suffering from violence, trauma and broken service delivery systems.
2. In the current FY23 Budget, I've proposed an increase of \$5M for expansion of the “shallow subsidy”, or partial voucher, that primarily provides assistance to seniors age 62 and older and persons with disabilities who need on-going assistance with paying their rent to stay in their homes.
3. Continue the work reducing the number of applicants on the DC Public Housing Waitlist that are seeking public housing placement or a federal Choice voucher. Prior to the closing of the list in 2013, it had expanded to 70,000 requests, but currently the DC Housing Authority has steadily reduced the list below 40,000. This list has dropped tremendously since 2016, and it is my hope that we can continue to reduce the number of people on the waitlist and get more families housed.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Nonprofits are a crucial part of the service work that is conducted in our city. I believe that high-performing nonprofits can help the government meet our high-level goals. Most nonprofits are very passionate about their community, and they have developed strong relationships with the residents. That is valuable and gives them an insight that can be helpful. Moreover, many nonprofits in the District have developed strong subject-matter expertise and are frequently very nimble institutions and entities with a vast network and partnerships across the non-profit community. Because nonprofits are usually much smaller than government entities,

they have the ability to quickly perform analyses, conduct focus groups and draft reports. I have been Chairperson of the Committee on Housing for seven years, and one thing I have learned is that housing issues pop up overnight, and often require immediate attention. We have to help those in need as we find them, and the government is not always best positioned to provide the quickest assistance. Groups such as Miriam's Kitchen or DC Pathways to Housing are often our “first responders” in the fight against homelessness. There is definite value in partnering with the right organizations, but we also need to have metrics in place in order to determine the effectiveness of our nonprofit relationships.

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

New construction is one way. We also need to rehabilitate naturally affordable dwelling units in every Ward, including West of Rock Creek Park, using mechanisms such as the Housing Production Trust Fund. Since 2015, I've helped guide more than \$1 billion of investments in affordable housing through the HPTF. Additionally, making a small percentage of units in existing market rate buildings available to moderate-income families at a reduced rent or purchase price is another strategy. Adding housing features to government installations and turning surplus buildings into affordable housing are more examples.

I am strongly committed to government programs that fill critical gaps. For example, many of our older housing properties are aging - we need to find ways to support landlords and tenants who want to maintain both the livability and the affordability of their properties, through tax credits, low-interest loans, or grant programs, rather than forcing landlords to sell, or placing them under a court-ordered receivership.

It's also vitally important for the local government to maintain our investments in public housing. The DC Housing Authority is the District's largest landlord, with 8,000 units in its portfolio. I've increased the Authority's budgets for repairs and maintenance of its properties, and for its voucher programs, every year since 2016. Moreover, the DC Housing Authority is the only authority nationwide that receives local funding to upgrade and modernize the properties.

I also believe that innovation and new policy tools have an important role to play in creating more affordable housing. Direct housing subsidies for working families is one of the keys to maintaining a mix of incomes in the District. We need to tap into every policy tool at our disposal - i.e., Inclusionary Zoning, first time home buyers' assistance programs and limited equity cooperatives - to help residents pay the rising rents.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

I am deeply disturbed by the rise of antisemitism in the city and it pains me to say that it was necessary for the Council in 2022 as a unified body to express this sentiment by passing the Sense of the Council Condemning Antisemitism recently. I am aware that MPD officers have been dispatched to local synagogues and other houses of worship for additional support, especially on the high holidays, and believe that this should continue. We must provide safe and secure spaces in our city to our religious communities to allow them to practice their religion without fear of violence or acts of hate. Moreover, I believe hate crimes should be prosecuted. We all want each of us to show tolerance of each other's differences, therefore there is no room in the District's values for hate towards another.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I do not support it.

What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

(Optional)

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported, should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

As DCPS updates their curriculum and practices, thought should be given as to how much historical knowledge is included in the materials that provide education on the Holocaust. I am aware that while those that are now graduating higher education and entering the workforce may have had Holocaust education in their curriculum, the young children that are currently undergoing primary and secondary education are not receiving as much education on the subject matter as those that are older. This is something that should be looked at and improved in formulating DCPS curriculum.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels, flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

In 2017, Washington DC was named the first LEED for Cities Platinum city in the world. The DC government, and the legislative agenda of the Council, has consistently demonstrated our commitment to lead the way on environmental issues. This LEED platinum certification for DC demonstrates the outcome of government practices in terms of reducing greenhouse emissions, supporting clean energy innovation, and focusing on inclusive prosperity and quality of life throughout all 8 Wards in the city. DC Government is engaged in a number of measures to protect the environment against climate change that I support, promote and inform constituents about, including DC Water's lead water pipe replacement program; the underground pipe-capping process that Washington Gas is performing to prevent methane gas leaks, PEPCO's continues placing utility wires underground to end power outages during violent wind storms; the District's Department of Energy and the Environment cleaning of the Anacostia River, and the Chesapeake Watershed project that adds mussels into the river

to clean it. Also, during my service as Vice Chair of the Washington regional Council of Governments Air Quality Council I recently When re-elected, I plan to continue commitments to creating a clean city as a government official and resident. More directly, as the housing committee chairperson, I focus oversight on the implementation of "green" legislation pertaining to residential construction and building modifications, inspections and revision of the building codes and standards. I also advocate for green transportation programs.

Nate Fleming

Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am the right choice for the Democratic nomination for At-Large councilmember because I have a combination of background and experience that uniquely qualifies me for the position. I have been endorsed by The Washington Post, Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund, and the Grassroots Law Project. I was born and raised in Washington, DC and DC is very close to my heart. I have also been trained to become a public servant through my educational pursuits. After graduating from high school in Potomac, Maryland, I attended Morehouse College and then went on to attend law school at the University of California at Berkeley. I also studied at the University of Pennsylvania in pursuit of my doctorate in higher education and I studied public policy at the Harvard University Kennedy School. My educational background has equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to serve effectively as a DC At-Large Councilmember. Additionally, I have more than a decade of experience working professionally in the interests of the residents of the District of Columbia. From 2013-2015, I served as the United States Shadow Representative to Congress for the District of Columbia and for the past five years I have worked at the DC Council as a Legislative Director and as a Committee Director. These experiences have allowed me to gain a deep understanding of the inner workings of the DC Council and will help me to be more effective when I am elected as councilmember.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Action 1: UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL: Support programming that engages youth effectively after school and year round. We need to guarantee that 100% of DC's youth have access to a high quality afterschool opportunity of their choice. This is modeled after a program called "My Chi, My Future" that is being implemented in Chicago. After-school programs complement what is being learned in school, and connects our kids to caring adults. Universal afterschool will allow parents to finish the workday with the knowledge that their child is in a safe and stimulating environment. Parents across the city are demanding activities such as the following:

- Life skills courses/Mentoring - Employment based activities
- Financial literacy programs
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs
- Literacy, Sports, and Music Based After School programs
- Programs that encourage civic engagement and neighborhood volunteering. Many residents have indicated that optional year-round educational and sports programs would be beneficial to the comprehensive development of their youth. This approach engages students throughout the summer months, helping to prevent the loss of educational gains.

Action 2: Expand community engagement opportunities for young people Establish the a

new citywide Youth Council o to allow for youth to be more formally engaged with the Council staff and city organizations o to empower youth to be more involved in being leaders and voices in their communities o to increase linkage between youth and organizations/programs that can directly impact them positively

Action 3: Develop athletic opportunities and stronger partnerships between MPD and DPR We would like to explore the development of Police Athletic League to give better opportunities for youth to express themselves through athletics, to include the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in more grassroots engagement with residents, which can better the relationship with MPD and the community overall and to be a linkage between MPD, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the community. We look to connect each police district with a recreation center for them to adopt to form a stronger, more targeted bond with that community. In addition, we want to develop a youth athletic program with Seventh District that is similar to the Watts Lions football program in South Central Los Angeles, in which the coaches and directors are officers whose full-time jobs is community engagement in the housing projects of the Watts neighborhood.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Relationship-based policing that sees community as true partners in crafting safety is necessary to build trust and ultimately strengthens police legitimacy which in turn contributes to reducing violence. From responding to violent incidents to solving crime, effective policing is rooted in community-police partnership. While each neighborhood is unique in its combination of assets and needs, which requires a tailored approach, each of the four key components must be present at a scale that meets the needs of the community. To reach scale, each component must be available and accessible for each and every neighborhood impacted by violence. All public, private, and community stakeholders and resources must be organized and mobilized to bring change. It is a call to action that we must set aside our differences and find ways to connect and seek solutions. Nothing less than an "all hands on deck" effort will bring peace to the streets, hope for our children, and a brighter future for the District.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

My top three social welfare priorities are affordable housing, education, and public safety. I have developed a comprehensive plan to address all three priorities. DC's stock of affordable housing can be increased by expanding rent control, holding developers accountable and involving the local government in the production of housing following a social housing model. On education, we need to recruit and retain more talented teachers and close the achievement gap that exists between black and white students in DC. Regarding public safety, I view this issue as both a short-term and a long-term problem. In the short term, we need more effective policing and better relationships between the community and the police. In the long-term, we need to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to keep them constructively engaged. Youth also need to be more effectively connected to positive adult role models.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Public partnerships with nonprofit organizations can be very effective. This is particularly true when a nonprofit organization has a specialized body of knowledge that the DC government may not have

the capacity to obtain. As with any partnership with the government, accountability mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure proper use of public resources. That said, government partnerships with nonprofit organizations have been tremendously helpful in the past in addressing social issues and will continue to be useful for years to come.

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

Action 1: Continue to support the development of a Community Land Trust A community land trust is a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to acquire and steward housing. It is governed or advised by residents and community members and focuses on a defined geographical area and uses a variety of tools to achieve and permanently preserve affordability. It serves low-income and disadvantaged populations in its service area by not only providing rental and ownership housing units, but also developing relationships with residents and offering programs and support throughout their tenure in Community Land Trust (CLT) housing. **Action 2:** Create more homeownership opportunities for DC Residents East of the River We must work towards the development of an outreach/capacity building program to promote homeownership. Only current residents East of the River would be able to participate in this program. This program should focus on assisting Wards 7 and 8 residents in the path to homeownership and wealth accumulation. This program should include a marketing budget, resources for financial literacy, asset accumulation, and credit counseling/ improvement. Residents should be on-ramped into programs like HPAP and DC Open Doors. **Action 3:** Explore Social Housing Model Vienna is the global leader as it relates to affordable housing. The city buys land deemed suitable for residential development and retains control over the type and nature of development. The city then solicits proposals from various private developers, which will build and retain ownership of the housing units. A committee evaluates these proposals based on four criteria: architectural quality, environmental performance, social sustainability, and economic parameters such as proposed rent levels and costs. After the committee selects a developer, the city sells the land to the developer at an affordable price. In addition, the city gives the developer a loan with favorable terms such as low interest rates and extended repayment periods. Private developers who collaborate with the city government to build affordable housing must allow the city to rent half of the new apartments to lower-income residents; the developer generally leases the remaining units to moderate-income residents. In some projects, future tenants participate in the planning, design, and construction process and give input on what kind of facilities they would like to have in the building. Rents are regulated by the city government so that none of the residents pay any more than 20 to 25 percent of their household income for housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Local synagogues, other houses of worship, and Jewish faith based agencies should be provided with police protection and additional security upon request. The government should also launch a public awareness campaign about the spike in antisemitic hate crimes. Hate of any kind is not to be tolerated in DC as it flies in the face of our shared values of inclusion and diversity. Perpetrators of hate crimes should be met with enhanced penalties based on the hate-based nature of their offenses.

BDS

I am generally supportive of promoting Israeli with

international law.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

SAB

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Given the recent uptick in antisemitic hate crimes, it is import that we review our curriculum in schools and ensure that Jewish history is being taught in a meaningful way that allows students to understand the consequences of antisemitism. I support updating our curriculum with a stronger focus on Jewish students and Jewish history.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

DC is in a fortunate position to have a number of transportation options that are less harmful to the environment than driving cars. These modes of transportation include bicycles, walking, busses, trains, and the streetcar. To reduce harmful admissions, I support investing in all of these less harmful modes of transportation to encourage DC residents to rely less on cars. I also support green building initiatives and connecting young adults to green jobs.

Lisa Gore



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I'm best positioned to tackle our city's most pressing problems: housing, public safety, and education from day one. I have unmatched experience in all of these areas. I've been recognized nationally for my work on investigating some of the most challenging housing issues. I've led efforts in identifying vulnerabilities in housing programs and developed Congressional testimony on a range of housing matters regarding program efficiency and proper spending of taxpayer dollars. For decades, I investigated frauds and provided tough oversight of housing programs. As a senior manager, I've supervised diverse, national award-winning teams, Division-wide budgets of \$2M, and designed national policy. I'm a proud DCPS mom who's actually worked on issues affecting our kids. I'm an ANC Commissioner. I fought to have the Military Road school dedicated as a city-wide academy and not just for Lafayette ES families. This decision gave all of DC extra pre-K slots. I have a clear vision for the type of Council leadership we need. What's at stake in this race is how to move DC forward to becoming a more equitable city. I'm fighting for a just DC where we have housing that's safe with affordable development that doesn't displace residents, equitable transportation across all 8 Wards, innovative ways to deliver school budgets and environmental justice. I will serve this city the highest of ethics, integrity, and leadership. As a member of the federal Inspector General community, I know how critical these are to public trust. We must stop the revolving door politics of the Wilson Building. DC needs a voice that is fresh, unbought, and accountable to the people. We have the opportunity to elect an exceptionally qualified leader, and I'm asking for your trust and vote.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure

in office?

1. I want to establish an affordable housing model that prioritizes the development of affordable housing for working people and families. There are several models throughout the country that would be appropriate for DC, including New York's COPA legislation. 2. I want to design legislation that protects Washingtonians from displacement as we meet our housing production goals. 3. I want to implement legislation that modernizes our vocational education programs. At one time DC had a robust vocational education program. My vision is to provide opportunities at the middle school level that provides technical training and access to business opportunities.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

The safest communities are those with the most resources. We see disinvestment in housing, education, healthcare, and food access in marginalized communities. We must be committed as a community to long-term social investments that can prevent violence in our communities in the first place. I'm the only candidate that has a plan to bring back a modernized vocational education program that builds both job skills and a pathway to business ownership. My plan invests in youth in middle school, which is where I believe the focus on skill-building and entrepreneurship must begin. Secondly, we must divert non violent offenders into community-based services, hold violent offenders accountable, use place-based strategies to address areas with increased activity, and implement the Police Reform Commission recommendations. I don't believe there is a magic number of needed police, but I support a thorough review of MPD's required resources while ensuring their accountability to the public.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

1. Housing 2. Equitable Education 3. Mental Health Services

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Partnerships with nonprofit organizations are important to understanding the complexity of issues. Nonprofit organizations are on the frontline of these issues. I am supportive of supportive of partnerships with nonprofits.

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

My entire housing platform (gorefordc.com/priorities) is based on a justice-first approach which means providing housing for those who need it the most first. The need for affordable housing in this city is beyond a crisis point, and the numbers are staggering. DC has over 40,000 people on the waiting list for subsidized housing, over 5,000 unsheltered residents, close to 30% of Black renters spending 50% or more of their income on housing, and one in four renter households spending more than 50% of their income on rent. We do not do enough to meet the housing needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and other communities with varying housing needs like victims of domestic violence and LGBTQ+ youth. I will integrate community land trusts and social housing models that center permanent affordability, avoid resident displacement, and build assets for residents and their families; fund public housing repairs so units are rehabilitated and maintained to prevent future deterioration; and preserve affordable housing units by strengthening rent control, closing loopholes, and strengthening tenant protections. In addition, I will invest in place-based strategies to ensure affordable housing of all types, including family-sized units, is distributed equitably throughout DC and implement strategies that will examine the development of publicly owned land and the use of publicly owned properties to create targeted affordable housing. I also realize that our housing

decisions are deeply connected to issues of justice, especially for the LGBTQ community. For example, our current at-large councilmember, who chairs the committee on housing and executive administration, led the bill that exempted single-family homeowners from TOPA. Because of that bill, a safe-house run in Brightwood by No Justice No Pride, which houses over 50 Black and brown transgender women a night in five different homes in D.C., was placed under threat by a landlord that wanted to sell the home. Had we not had that exemption from TOPA, that protection for our Black and brown trans women would not have been weakened. I support The Way Home Campaign and LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition to increase the number of vouchers and reform program eligibility rules. In particular, the Mayor's current proposed budget does not include enough funding to even address the large waitlist of people waiting for vouchers. Our current at-large council member, who chairs the committee on housing and executive administration, expressed surprise that such a waitlist even exists. I would fight to fund and expand the voucher eligibility programs. I also support funding Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) vouchers to ensure those who urgently need permanent rental assistance can access housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

This is an important issue given the rise in violent hate crime attacks against the Jewish community. First, I think it's important for the community to be involved in this discussion. There are many important considerations, including finding the right balance between security and openness. As retired federal law enforcement, I think it's important to maintain an open relationship with law enforcement so congregations are familiar and updated, regularly, on security threats. Security concerns should also be coordinated City-wide, so leaders are familiar with each other and security issues occurring outside of their congregations. I would support efforts by synagogues to maintain a safe environment.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I support the right of Israel to exist as an independent Jewish state.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. I believe it should be taken into account. Jewish history is significant. I also consider the voice of Jewish students carefully. I know Jewish students have expressed concern about attending school on Jewish holidays. DCPS should consider Jewish holidays as a day off for students just as it does other religious holidays.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

In 2018, DC enacted the Clean Energy Omnibus Amendment Act, considered one of the most forward-thinking city policies on clean energy in the country. Yet, that legislation failed frontline communities in our city, like Brentwood and others that remain over-exposed to industrial hazards. The Act failed to eliminate lead pipes and other environmental hazards in our school buildings and public housing

properties. I support a Green New Deal for DC and stand with environmental justice advocates who have fought for the environmental needs of our frontline communities for years. We cannot claim to lead the country in mitigating the threat of climate change without leading the city by protecting our frontline communities from environmental injustices. We also need to understand that not all communities recover the same from the more frequent flooding, hurricanes, and fires caused by climate change. As a former federal Special Agent in Charge, I've led the Office of Inspector General's strategic mission and priorities in HUD's \$83.9 billion Disaster Recovery portfolio. I've seen first-hand the devastating impact natural disasters of all types have on communities across the country. I've spoken with people who didn't have enough money to leave their homes before disasters struck and stayed only to wonder if they would survive. My experience, these conversations, along with witnessing the environmental injustices in DC communities, form the core of my belief that environmental justice is one of DC's most immediate challenges. I will work to: Speed up our decarbonization efforts through a justice-first transition for all communities towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Our frontline communities don't have 20 years to wait for the promise of a clean environment and critical infrastructure retrofits. Fight for our frontline communities through a justice-first approach. Communities of color and working-class families are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards and pollution, but in reality, we're all affected by the consequences of pollution and climate change. Environmental equity means to poison all people equally; environmental justice means to stop poisoning people, period. To protect all of us, we must defend communities who disproportionately suffer the worst health outcomes from environmental hazards and climate change by enacting policies that combat environmental injustices and ensure long-term community resilience. Protect and invest in our public housing residents by transitioning public housing developments to net-zero energy consumption by improving the energy efficiency of buildings and installing energy-efficient windows, electric heat pumps, and renewable energy rooftops to reduce energy consumption. Make homes healthy by subsidizing costs, based on income, for family homes to transition from oil heat to heat pumps, expanding current rebates for heat pumps, and removing rebates for fossil fuel and gas appliances. Create green jobs that pay workers livable wages, offer good benefits, have strong worker protections, and build on the Solar for All program and DC's existing 100% renewable electricity law.

Dexter Williams



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have dedicated my life to making DC a better place for all, and I'm running for Council because we need a change. Our city is dealing with a major housing crisis, high crime, and a deeply inequitable school system. I have the experience and vision to bring people together to solve these issues. I have worked at the DC Council and was instrumental in passing legislation that created jobs, expanded voting rights, and improved our environment. Prior to the Council, I worked to organize communities to support public campaign financing, a program that every candidate in the At-Large race is participating in. At my current job, I managed the vote by mail program where we successfully enacted laws in other states to make it easier for people to vote. This is why I've been endorsed by the Washington Teachers' Union, the DC Latino Caucus, and the Georgetown Voice.

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What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Public Safety - I will take a comprehensive approach to addressing the underlining causes of crime (lack of job opportunities, housing, and education) as a long-term approach to prevent crime in the future. In the short-term, we need to aggressively identify and connect with the roughly 500 individuals who are responsible for the violence in the city and interrupt the pattern of behavior that puts us all at risk by having a rigorous intervention program and connecting them to employment and educational opportunities. Education - students of color and students with disabilities are not on reading and math level, and the pandemic exacerbated the issue. I will introduce legislation that requires the Administration to develop a robust plan to identify the necessary supports that are needed and devise a plan to close the gaps. I will also bring back vocational training so our students can compete in a global economy. Housing - we need to look at changing our inclusionary zoning laws to allow for more affordable housing. Eight percent is too low. I will also look at how we can use the 17,000 vacant apartment buildings across the city as an opportunity to address our housing and homelessness crisis.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As I mentioned earlier in the survey, I'm going to

take a long-term and short-term approach where we invest in the root causes of crime while taking immediate action to stop crime in its tracks. One of my first priorities is to implement the recommendations in the Police Reform Commission's report. The Council has not taken immediate action on the commission's recommendation, which has been a contributor to the increasing crime.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

I want to create a cash assistance program for our most vulnerable residents. This includes seniors, homeless population, underemployed, and young people. I also want to revamp our employment training program so that our residents are trained for jobs. Often, there are jobs available but there's a lack of skills and training needed to do the job successfully.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Governments have a long history of partnering with nonprofit organizations to provide necessary services to residents. In fact, these organizations offer resources that the District can't offer, which is why nonprofits are critical. As councilmember, I'll look to identify ways we can build on existing partnerships and create new partnerships.

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

As I mentioned earlier, I want to look at changing our inclusionary zoning laws to allow for more affordable housing and identifying how we can use the 17,000 vacant apartments units across the city to address our housing crisis. Also, I want to invest more money in our workforce housing for our frontline workers like teachers, fire fighters, and individuals in the service industry. We need to look at investing more money in housing options across the income spectrum.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

It's absolutely shameful that we've experienced a spike in hate crimes against synagogues and other houses of worship. No one should have to fear for their safety, particularly when they are at their place of worship. This comes from increasingly dangerous rhetoric that fuels hatred. As a city, we have to do our part in tamping down on misinformation and lifting communities up. We need to work with the local MPD and our federal partners to have patrols around places of worship, particularly places that have been identified as "hot spots".

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I want to have a conversation with JCRC to more deeply understand the issue

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Absolutely. It's important that we teach our children about Jewish history so they can have a broad understanding of the world and appreciate different ways of life, and the community's important role in society. The city must collaborate with the Jewish community to develop a curriculum and identify any specific needs of Jewish students.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

The city made a commitment in 2017 to address the climate crisis. Specifically, the District committed to being carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2050. As councilmember, I'll provide oversight over DOEE to ensure that the Administration is meeting its yearly metrics to ensure that we're on track to meeting our goals by 2050.



CANDIDATES FOR WARD 1 MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

SALAH CZAPARY



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As the nation's capital, DC should be a blueprint for the safest city in America. Unfortunately, we are experiencing our highest increase in the homicide rate in nearly two decades, while carjackings have tripled since 2019. All residents and visitors deserve to be able to live and travel our city without fear or violence. A central focus of my time on the Council will be to ensure the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has the appropriate resources to respond to and investigate crime, while ensuring MPD is focused on strategies that reduce harm, but also hold offenders accountable. We also need to modernize our emergency response to meet the needs of every situation. Residents have consistently called for mental health and crisis response or co-response. It is time the Council works with MPD and the Mayor to make this a reality. Not every 911 call requires a police officer, but residents do expect a response when they call 911. Serving at MPD for 5 years, I have seen firsthand that building trust and establishing relationships between communities and law enforcement is a key tool in crime prevention. Having a Ward 1 Councilmember who can facilitate and build grassroots relationships in our Ward, between law enforcement, residents, and

community leaders, is an essential component to improving public safety.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My top 3 legislative priorities are to:

1. Reaffirm our commitment to public safety.

It is critical to ensure all families see themselves remaining in the District for generations to come. Over the past 8 years the increase in crime, shootings, and violence across the District, but especially in Ward 1, is making families question if they will remain or leave. This condition is affecting our quality of life and is unacceptable. I will immediately repair the relationship between the Ward 1 council office and MPD, which has been severely damaged. Having a Ward 1 Councilmember who can facilitate and build grassroots relationships in our Ward, between law enforcement, residents, and community leaders, is an essential component to improving public safety.

2. Deliver a comprehensive model for alternative responses to non-violent calls in the 911 system. D.C. police respond to about 600,000 911 calls each year. Unless someone else responds to a portion of those calls, emergency response time will increase again. We can't wait any longer. I will work to establish non-police responses to 911 calls involving nonviolent crisis or conflict.

3. Use our budget surplus to increase our investments in families by supporting their critical needs (affordable housing, healthcare, childcare, playgrounds, road safety, transit, bicycle & pedestrian facilities, etc.).

Living in the District is increasingly difficult. Costs are rising. There are waiting lists for critical services. Amenities are not evenly distributed or accessible across Ward 1, and there are serious concerns about the future of Metro and dangers of our roads. As the Nation's Capital and a global city we need to be more ambitious about pursuing inclusive equitable development and find ways

to accelerate those investments. Over the past 8 years the execution of these projects has been slow. Council must find a way to make these projects happen in 2-3 years not a decade.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

The narrative that we must choose between public safety and police reform is failing us as a city. A city like DC that frequently runs record budget surpluses is in a position to achieve both, and it's inexcusable that we have not already.

I have a six-point plan to achieve that outcome.

1. Committing to a social-services-first approach
2. Creating alternative mechanisms for response to non-violent 911 calls
3. Reforming how we police communities through training & increased accountability
4. Preventing gun violence by building stronger cases against repeat offenders
5. Engaging our youth & vulnerable residents with better education & employment programs
6. Installing traffic calming measures & enforcing penalties on reckless drivers and illegal ATVs

Executing this plan requires financial resources, and one of my first actions as Councilmember will be to demand that Council introduce and pass a bill to fully fund this comprehensive plan within 180 days of the first legislative session.

DC Council and our community have been discussing actions for public safety and police reform for years, numerous District commissioned studies have been done, yet passage of a comprehensive funding bill has been elusive. This is a failure of focus and commitment by Council and I will not let a single day go by without highlighting the urgency for action and funding.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

Affordable and public housing: As councilmember

I will advocate for reforming zoning laws even further to allow additional affordable housing units on underused land, especially in transit rich areas. I will also examine legislative proposals to convert hotels, and other abandoned or unused properties into housing, including office space.

Education is increasingly digital and requires that we make sure that every student has access to a home computer and internet access. The city should provide a laptop and a mi-fi for internet access to every student who lacks one. Students also need to have a healthy diet in order to focus in the classroom. Schools need to provide healthy meals for breakfast and lunch and snacks for after-school programs.

Finally, we need to address homelessness and the mental health challenges that intersect: We are failing the most vulnerable amongst us. We need a long-term housing solution for those experiencing homelessness. This starts with shelters that have enough resources to meet the crisis, and that are clean and safe. Shelters must also help people get back into a productive life and stable housing. I will work to improve our shelters so that they can serve the needy and help them get back on their feet. I also know that mental health cannot be divorced from homelessness: That's why I will work to increase funding for mental health services so that we can ensure that people in need are not neglected but get specialized support.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Nonprofits, including service and community based organizations are essential to a thriving and inclusive society. DC should find ways to increase public support and partnerships with non-profits in a wide range of areas such as healthcare, childcare, education, jobs training and placement, youth engagement, public space stewardship, cultural programming, and more. There are even opportunities in housing where nonprofits can fulfill voids that are not served by for profit enterprises. There are large segments

of these sectors that struggle to operate profitably because margins are too small or residents in need of services may have a low ability to pay. If the District contracted with for-profit entities they would be overpaying and subsidizing a market unnecessarily. In lieu, we have many examples of successful and growing nonprofit organizations that are generating a significant impact on our communities, such as the Mary's Center, Marth's Table, the Sitar Center, and Jubilee Housing, to name a few just in Ward 1 alone. It's essential we continue to support and foster their expansion as well as the creation of new nonprofits.

The lack of affordable housing impacts a variety of social welfare issues – from ensuring that those who serve (or have served) our community, such as teachers, first responders, veterans and other government employees, can live in it, to allowing us to provide sanctuary for those fleeing war and persecution, to providing for the unhoused and protecting long-time residents from being displaced and replaced by economic development.

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

Our Ward and city desperately need new public housing and affordable housing. As councilmember, I will support development of affordable units and public housing, and mixed income development. This will add new housing units and bring down rising rents. My priority will be to promote affordable housing so all residents can afford to live here, especially for Black and Brown residents who are being pushed out of our city and ward. We can start by building on DC's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land use map. As councilmember I will advocate for reforming zoning laws even further to allow additional affordable housing units on underused land, especially in transit rich areas. I will also examine legislative proposals to convert hotels, and other abandoned or unused properties into housing, including office space.

In the past few years, the FBI, ADL, the Metropolitan Police Department and others have reported a spike in hate crimes generally and antisemitic incidents specifically. How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

A central pillar of my campaign is addressing the public safety crisis in our Ward, and this includes ensuring that synagogues, Jewish institutions, and all faith-based organizations in our city have everything they need to address security issues. The rise in antisemitic attacks is deeply concerning to me. Serving at MPD for 5 years, I have seen firsthand that building trust and establishing relationships between communities and law enforcement is a key tool in addressing security concerns, especially for the Jewish community. Having a Ward 1 Councilmember who can facilitate and build grassroots relationships in our Ward, between law enforcement, residents, and community leaders, is an essential component to improving the safety of Jewish institutions and other houses of worship and faith-based organizations.

I was pleased to see that the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security recently advanced a bill that would authorize \$500 million in annual funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which can help synagogues, JCCs, and other Jewish institutions invest in security measures such as fences, cameras, more secure doors and hiring of personnel. As Councilmember, I am fully committed to making sure the DC Jewish community can access these critical funds to protect themselves from antisemitic hate crimes and implement security plans

I was proud to receive the 2019 Homeland Security Today Mission Award for my work on

the MPD reserve officer program. This program brings in volunteers to allow voices from vulnerable communities, like the Jewish community, to be involved in safety measures.

As councilmember, I will be steadfast in my support for the Jewish community and work together with the Jewish community to fight antisemitism in all forms.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

When I was 18, I lived in Israel to work for the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa, and again when I was 22. I do not support the BDS movement and I also believe we must defend every American's constitutional right to engage in political activity. I do not support laws that may violate Americans' First Amendment rights, as we've seen in some legislation attempting to legislate against BDS.

What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel? (Optional)

It is essential for DC to remain open for business to all those willing to invest and do business in our city. I will work to expand economic opportunities so DC remains a competitive and thriving city that benefits all residents.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported, should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. It is extremely concerning that two-thirds of millennials cannot identify what Auschwitz is. I support making sure the Holocaust is part of DCPS history curriculum. Twenty-two percent of millennials said they haven't heard of the Holocaust or are not sure whether they've heard of it — twice the percentage of U.S. adults as a whole who said the same. This is unacceptable. Too often Jewish history and Jewish American history is left out. I support making sure any DCPS updates to its curriculum include input from Jewish Students.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which includes the United States, formally adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism ("the IHRA Definition"). The IHRA Definition, initially published by a European Union agency in 2005, has been used by the U.S. State Department since 2010 and is sometimes referred to as the State Department's Working Definition of Antisemitism. I support DCPS using this definition as part of their curriculum.

This approach is critical for students to develop mutual ties and bonds as well as respect for one of another. It is also important for students to learn about failures in leadership throughout history so we can avoid making the same mistakes in the future. This is a key part of our development and growth into a supportive and inclusive society.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels, flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

This topic is critical given DC's vulnerability to climate change, especially sea level rise and flash flooding resulting from our position within the Chesapeake watershed and at the intersection of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. We need to focus on increasing our resiliency by reducing impervious surfaces, increasing bio-retention and natural treatment of stormwater runoff, and expanding our coastal defenses using natural barriers such as parks, open space, and tidal pools. We also need to change the way that we design buildings and streets to better capture and reuse stormwater

and reduce heat-island effect by applying biophilic design techniques for as many surfaces as possible.

However, resiliency measures and mitigation alone is not enough. We as a City need to also reduce our contributions to climate change by reducing energy consumption and energy loss in the buildings and transportation sector, reducing reliance on fossil fuels by maximizing the development of renewable energy sources such as solar, and promoting the use of low-carbon forms of transport such as transit, bicycling, and walking.

All of these areas require significant investment by the public and private sectors that must be sustained at a high-level for decades. Building the business case to secure these investments and prioritizing their execution will take focus and strong leadership to generate consensus and ensure Council delivers our climate change commitments for ourselves today and for DC's next generations of residents.

SABEL HARRIS



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am the best candidate for this position because I will bring a unique perspective to the DC Council, work closely with residents to determine policies that would most benefit them, and follow

through with those plans until we see material change. My experience as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) has helped me to establish lines of communication between myself and Ward 1 residents, and I will strengthen and expand on those relationships as Councilmember. As ANC, I correspond with neighbors about their concerns, work to resolve local conflicts, report service issues, and help support local businesses. I have directed effective projects such as Reeves Center redevelopment, community agreements with bars and restaurants, and movements to end police brutality, and as Councilmember I will continue this work on a larger scale. I have extensive experience collaborating with individuals and communities to ensure that their voices are heard: I not only listen to residents, but I also incorporate their feedback into my advocacy. As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, I am well aware of the lack of support available to immigrants and other vulnerable communities, and I plan to address this inequity through advocacy and legislation. I believe it is crucial for local representatives to remain present in the community so they know which changes would actually be beneficial, and I am committed to fulfilling that role.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

The first accomplishment I will work toward during my tenure in office is a well-equipped violence interruption program that addresses issues at the heart of violent crime. As a way to strengthen and consolidate violence interruption efforts, I will advocate for combining our two current programs – Cure the Streets and the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement – so that Ward 1 can address conflict with a unified front. Violence Interrupters should take on many situations that are currently directed to MPD, and increased funding should be allocated to initiatives such as Building Blocks DC. I believe that efficient violence interruption programs will drastically improve safety in Ward 1. The second goal I plan to achieve is improved infrastructure and neighborhood services in Ward 1. Problems like overflowing trash bins, broken street lights, and rat problems cannot be ignored, in addition to more pressing issues such as water disruptions and gas leaks. As a Councilmember, I will use

a data-driven approach to institute a 311 system that responds to service requests quickly and productively. The third thing I aim to accomplish is school modernization, upgraded facilities and better oversight from Council. Too often, students and teachers are forced to deal with malfunctioning HVAC systems, poor lighting and air quality, and dilapidated buildings. Coupled with difficulties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, these problems create an unproductive and uncomfortable learning environment. Schools are also experiencing unprecedented levels of teacher resignations and decreased student enrollment. By visiting schools and working with the Department of General Services, we can systematically repair and modernize faulty equipment and outdated facilities. This also necessitates actions like reinstating the Education Committee to provide oversight on the DC school system and ensure that issues are resolved promptly. Crime is rising around the Country and in DC.

How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Improving safety will be my immediate priority as Councilmember. Recent incidents of violence and conflict have contributed to an insecure, unsafe environment for Ward 1 residents, and I believe a multifaceted approach is necessary to restore our community's sense of security. Rather than viewing safety as a superficial issue that can be resolved with an increased police presence, I believe an emphasis on violence interruption, data collection, and mental health services will produce successful results. Trained counselors and social workers can de-escalate situations and prevent individual mental health crises from escalating into violence, and data transparency will help ensure that resources are directed to where they are needed most. Furthermore, I will advocate for MPD to adopt a guardian-centered approach, defaulting to peaceful conflict resolution strategies rather than confrontation. Restoring public safety is vital in Ward 1, which is why I created an extensive safety plan detailing the steps I will take to prevent crime and incidents of violence.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

My first social welfare priority as Ward 1 Councilmember will be effective and affordable social services available to residents. Individuals struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues often do not know where to turn to receive help or medical care they need. This applies particularly to students and teachers, who generally do not receive support to cope with feelings of isolation and stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therapy and counseling can be expensive and unhelpful when mental health professionals do not understand the lived experiences of community members. As Councilmember, I will work to ensure that accessible mental health programs are widespread – both in educational spaces and the overall community. My second social welfare priority is housing affordability for low-income and extremely low-income DC residents. Our public housing system is neglected and ill-equipped to house our Ward's most vulnerable residents. Additionally, many families cannot access supposedly affordable housing due to the way Median Family Income (MFI) is calculated. We must change how we define affordability, repair our voucher system, refurbish and modernize affordable housing units, and enact strict oversight over the Housing Production Trust Fund. My third social welfare priority is mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the Ward 1 community, particularly vulnerable and historically marginalized populations. I support indoor masking mandates, vaccine mandates, consistent COVID testing systems, but I believe general guidance on COVID precautions has been infrequent, unreliable, and not transparent. There have been many issues with inequity in COVID treatment and vaccine distribution, and I will work to resolve these problems on the Council. I will

advocate for more accessible testing sites, frequent KN95 and N95 mask distributions, and support for frontline workers. Finally, I will strongly advocate for data to always be transparent and utilized in order to make the best decisions for DC because this is the foundation to build trust between communities, medical professionals, and local government.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

I believe partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC is an important step in creating a support system for DC residents. Nonprofits contributing to the public good must be supported with legislation, resource allocation, and advocacy to ensure that they are able to continue their work. To take it a step further, a Councilmember must also ensure the grant process isn't as competitive. Right now, wonderful organizations that are often doing important work at the ground level have to compete with other wonderful organizations in this grant allocation process. The DC Council should maintain consistent and open communication with nonprofits to promote collaboration on local issues.

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

I plan to increase the availability of affordable housing by first advocating for a reassessment of how we define MFI and calculate inclusionary zoning, which does not currently account for the disparities between Wards and excludes many low-income residents. For example, the District's inclusionary zoning policy does not accommodate people who need deeply affordable housing at 30% MFI levels. We must change the way we calculate MFI, moving it to a Ward-level rate and make inclusionary zoning encompass 30% MFI and expand the requirements. As Councilmember, I would also facilitate consistent oversight of DCHA to guarantee that they are taking care of our residents who live in public housing complexes. DCHA has been known to retaliate against residents in these complexes and that must end. I will legislate on policies such as the Green New Deal for Public Housing, which will create sustainable and affordable housing for low-income individuals. This program would reduce public housing water and energy costs, lessen carbon emissions, and improve living conditions by upgrading facilities in public housing developments.

In the past few years, the FBI, ADL, the Metropolitan Police Department and others have reported a spike in hate crimes generally and antisemitic incidents specifically. How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

There should be no tolerance for hate crimes and antisemitic incidents in the DC community. As Councilmember, I would take the security concerns of synagogues and houses of worship extremely seriously and work to resolve them to the best of my ability. Increased oversight on MPD and local security agencies would improve efficiency and help prevent these instances. Additionally, officers should be given specific training regarding hate crimes and religious or cultural discrimination so that they are prepared to encounter these situations and minimize any harmful impacts on victims. Once elected, I would also advocate for strict policies denouncing and forbidding hate crimes. These policies would also outline strategies for increasing security in faith-based agencies as well as consequences for the perpetrators of antisemitic violence. Data transparency and consistent follow-ups will improve efficiency in preventing and responding to hate crimes, and cooperation between the Council and local organizations will streamline protective solutions.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I had the opportunity to visit Israel with my fiancé's family for his nephew's bar mitzvah several years ago. The people of Israel were warm and welcoming and I cherished that time; however, I cannot support a government that has committed injustices and crimes against the Palestinian people.

What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel? (Optional)

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported, should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

In my role at EVERFI, I had the opportunity to help launch our K12 course with the ADL, BINAH: Building Insights to Navigate Antisemitism & Hate. This was a ground-breaking course and I was excited to be a part of the course's journey. I firmly believe that hate is learned and if we can continue to teach cultural histories and expand social emotional learning courses, this is how we stop hate in its tracks. Jewish students and Jewish history must undoubtedly be taken into account as DCPS updates its curriculum. Inclusive educational systems should include discussions dedicated to Jewish history and its modern effects, as well as the ways in which accounts of Jewish history intersect with other cultures and histories. Furthermore, DCPS should create spaces available for Jewish students to celebrate their heritage and form a sense of community within their schools and neighborhoods. This could include clubs, after school activities, religious traditions, and more, depending on feedback from Jewish students and families. Instances of antisemitism and discrimination should also be strictly prohibited in educational spaces, and teachers should be given specialized training on how to handle such situations.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels, flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Tackling the climate crisis is one of the foundations of my platform. I plan to develop solutions that both prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change. First, I will advocate for and pass legislation that provides climate-conscious transportation options for people as an alternative to gas-powered vehicles. Moving public transit to green energy, while ensuring that it remains affordable and accessible across DC, will substantially reduce our contribution to air pollution. I also believe it is essential to address the ways in which climate change affects vulnerable and low-income people disproportionately. Policies like the Green New Deal for Public Housing can outline methods of cutting down energy consumption and creating affordable homeownership options for residents. This also includes decarbonizing our home appliances and energy sources and outfitting buildings for resilience to extreme weather conditions. As Councilmember, I will advocate for funding to install energy-efficient home appliances, air filtration systems, and water quality upgrades in public housing developments and educational buildings. Finally, expanded sustainability education in schools will equip students with the knowledge they need to prepare for the climate crisis. We must invest in this type of education to inform the next generation about the effects of greenhouse gasses, car pollution, and our carbon footprint. Creating permanent environmentally-friendly solutions necessitates teaching our students about how they can make a difference in fighting climate change

Brianne Nadeau



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

With a strong focus on community engagement and social justice, I have worked alongside residents and advocates to author bold, progressive policies and get results for Ward 1 and the District. Leading the Council in increasing housing investments and legislative action during my tenure, I have been a champion for affordable housing and tenant protections. My efforts have put more than 1,200 units of new affordable housing in the pipeline in Ward 1, hundreds of which have already been built. I have taken a comprehensive approach to address both the immediate impact of crime, and the long standing inequities that lead to crime in our neighborhoods - working with agency heads, law enforcement officials, and community members to identify Ward 1's needs and to leverage government resources to address the issues. As a parent to two young children, I understand the importance of quality early childhood development and a transparent education system for Ward 1 residents raising families. I have championed efforts to fund the Birth-to-Three legislation, first by shifting millions from a tax credit for wealthy companies to pay for facilities, and most recently, by raising taxes on the wealthiest residents to increase the salaries of childcare providers. There is more work to do, and know that with my leadership and experience I can continue to bring results to my constituents.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

I'm proud of the work I've done thus far - ending homelessness for thousands of households, expanding public benefits, establishing new rights and services for people with disabilities, implementing paid family leave. But there is more work to do. We are only beginning to see the right level of investments in lasting public safety. We've gotten our schools back on track, and we cannot let up. And the affordable housing crisis is far from over. I'm proud of my work in these areas and hope to have the opportunity to continue my efforts.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Public Safety is about investing in proven crime prevention measures, supporting victims and survivors of crime, investing in youth, and having a high quality, accountable police force. I've led efforts to implement a public health approach to public safety - treating violence like a disease that needs to be eradicated with evidence-based interventions. I've also authored and supported laws to get more guns off the street, and have established street outreach programs for the homeless, mental health programs and other social services efforts that take responsibilities off the plate of the police so they can focus on actual crime.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

Ending homelessness Expanding Affordable Housing Making early childhood programs high quality, accessible and affordable

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

The District government relies on non-profit organizations to help implement many of our programs. It's an essential partnership that allows us to oversee outcomes, but allows trusted partners to be the face of

our programs. This is often a more effective approach than having government workers engage residents with services and opportunities.

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

We are living in a time of prosperity for the District, but far too many of our residents struggle with housing, homelessness, and displacement. Unless we preserve and build new subsidized, affordable housing, the District's growth will come at the expense of pushing out low-income families and people of color, particularly the communities that have made Ward 1 so vibrant and resilient. I'm fighting to create new affordable housing and preserve the affordable and family-sized housing we already have, through increased subsidy and increased legalization of housing, with a focus on our lowest income, most vulnerable families. I believe in a "Yes, and" approach to housing. Legalizing more housing capacity and Inclusionary Zoning units that come with it are one piece of the puzzle, but an incomplete solution. I've voted to expand funding to the Housing Production Trust Fund and tenant-based vouchers, and I support Community Land Trusts, strengthened rent control, limited-equity cooperatives, and unique tools like the Tenant and District Opportunity to Purchase Act. All are essential components of our housing vision. I have also been the Council's main champion of using publicly-owned land to meaningfully expand our stock of deeply affordable housing. There is no reason the public sector should only be managing a stable or shrinking stock of social housing, and I believe DC should use its significant resources to acquire properties and scale up a robust social housing program. These are some, but not all, of the things I have done as Councilmember to increase affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I support the full investigation and prosecution of all hate crimes in our community. I have worked closely with MPD's liaison to the faith community as well as our houses of worship to ensure they are supported and protected.

BDS

I believe in holding Israel accountable. I don't think BDS is the way to do.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

I do not have any specific proposals.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. In particular I have advocated for the inclusion of Holocaust education in the Social Studies curriculum beginning in middle school.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Nothing drives my passion for climate justice as much as being a parent. I think constantly about what we are leaving behind for our children. What horrors will they face if we do not reverse climate change? Where will they live? What kind of lives will they have? It is for them, and the children and families I serve as Councilmember that I voted for the Clean Energy Omnibus Act of 2018. And although it is considered 'one of the country's most aggressive and impactful clean energy actions to-date,' I know we need to do more. I'm thrilled to have co-introduced the Green New Deal for Housing Amendment Act, which would establish the first social housing program in the District. There is more to come on this and other critical climate change measures.

CANDIDATES FOR WARD 3 MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Ben Bergmann

Did not submit a response

Deirdre Brown



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

It is time for a change in leadership in Ward 3. This is why I entered the race before the Councilmember decided to drop out. We need a Councilmember that is going to think and act

outside of the establishment and bring fresh ideas that are responsive to the ward's needs. I will be a Councilmember for all residents of Ward 3 and will fight for justice and equality. My main priorities are housing, education, transportation, and public safety. These issues are not only near and dear to me but I have also heard these issues reflected back to me when talking with our neighbors. As a mother, former ANC commissioner for 3F04, small business owner, and housing advocate I have the lived experiences of nearly every resident in the ward to know how to move Ward 3 forward.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

As the Ward 3 Councilmember I will increase the number of affordable units in the ward, focusing in on housing for seniors and families. I will fight for improvements in our schools that support all our students and our teachers. I will work with our small businesses to bring our main streets back to full capacity.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As the Ward 3 Councilmember it is important that we continue the efforts of programs like violence interrupters and behavioural health services. However, I believe that we needed to have more community policing and have police officers walking our main streets.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

My top three social welfare priorities are housing assistance including help with rent and utility payments, rent control policy reform and tax breaks for seniors.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

As the Ward 3 Councilmember I will support and encourage partnerships with non-profit organizations. Often these organizations are at ground zero when it comes to what is really happening in the community and what our residents need and want.

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

I am in support of building more housing in DC and Ward 3. The current Mayor has announced that she will create nearly 800 affordable units in Ward 3 funded through the Housing Production Trust Fund. The first project will be approximately 93 new units of affordable, senior housing. As Councilmember, I will work to make sure that the affordable housing is spread out throughout the ward and at a variety of income levels. I will work to ensure that more affordable senior housing is implemented in the ward and I believe that we need to make sure that there are affordable units for working families with three or more bedrooms. I would also advocate that workforce housing units be a part of the plan. I am in support of housing programs for teachers and bringing back the Police Officer Next Door Program. Both of these programs would encourage DC residents to enter our public service jobs. The median household income in Ward 3 is \$128,670 compared to the median income in the District of Columbia of \$88,311. I think one of the key ways to bring more diversity to Ward 3 is by making housing more accessible, through homebuying programs, tax credits, and developments geared toward the needs of working families. I think we also need to look at policies that use an Area Median Income (AMI) that accurately reflects the District.

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

As a Councilmember, I introduced innovative approaches to housing, including pushing DC government to work with office building owners who own older, vacant office buildings to convert them into affordable housing. I also wrote and passed a bill to add unprecedented transparency to economic development projects by requiring public reporting of promises made on the front end of projects that get public money, and reporting of the outcomes on affordable units created, local jobs, and economic impact on the back end. As Chair of the Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, I am pushing agencies to formally identify unneeded District-owned properties so that we can examine whether the buildings or land can be used for housing. As mayor, I will continue working with experts to come up with creative solutions and will move rapidly to implement these crucial strategies. I will also make clear to developers that they are welcome to build in DC but they need to meet our needs, not the other way around. We will award contracts to the developers who are most committed to building the housing we need and won't just rubber-stamp projects without working with developers to get as many affordable housing units as possible - not just meeting the legal bare minimum. We don't need more luxury condo buildings - what we do need are affordable, family-sized units. Developers are part of our community and they need to do their part to improve it.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Unfortunately, we live in a world where the level of hate speech is rising and that speech turns into hate crimes. Until we can fully eliminate this threat to our houses of worship, we will need to rely on security and police presences. I know that this is not ideal,

but we must protect our community as best we can during this trying time.

BDS

I am in support of the movement and stand with the Palestinian people.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. As a parent of three adult children, a high school and a middle school students, it is important that our kids are exposed to diverse races and religion at an early age. This is the number one way to fight bias. We know that most bias come from a place of ignorance.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

The District of Columbia has a goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. I am in support of moving toward 100% renewable energy sources and the cutting of greenhouse gas emissions by 50% or more. I am in support of updating old HVAC systems, updating buildings so that they are energy-efficient, encouraging bicycling and walking as well as cost-effective and reliable public transportation. We will need to consider new power sources such as solar panels and wind. New construction should have to meet certain performance standards.

Tricia Duncan

Did not submit a response

Henry Cohen

Did not submit a response

Beau Finley



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I believe strongly in the dignity of the person - that is the impetus for why I am running to represent Ward 3 and the font from which my proposals flow. Our government should not just be responsive to

our current needs but also plan for our future needs. It must provide opportunities for all so that we, our children, and our grandchildren can thrive. We need to elect leaders with experience, vision, and integrity, who will fight for all of us. We need to elect someone with roots in the District, who knows our past and wants to guide our future. I was born here and attended school here. During weekends in college and law school, I'd work at my dad's shop on Connecticut Avenue. Now, my wife and I live in Cleveland Park, where I've lived for the past seventeen years. I represent my neighborhood on ANC 3C where I currently serve as Chair. There, I fight for safer streets, protecting our environment, and transparent public

processes. We need to elect someone who has analyzed budgets and crafted policy - we need someone who has specific proposals to combat the affordable housing crisis and the climate crisis. I spent my entire career in public service: first, as a federal auditor for an Inspector General where I led reviews of a \$1.8 billion capital program, and then for fourteen years as an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission. At the FCC, I worked on a range of issues, including tackling the scourge of robocalls, expanding access to phone and internet service for low-income households, and holding large telecommunications companies accountable when they failed to comply with the FCC's public safety rules. We need to elect someone with a track record of fighting for what's right. During my final 3+ years at the FCC, I served as Vice President of my union chapter - NTEU 209 - where I fought for employee rights at the bargaining table, organized my coworkers, and represented colleagues through the grievance process to obtain justice and dignity for my fellow workers.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

I would like to end chronic homelessness, protect our children by ensuring that we have universal day-care and fully fund Birth-to-3 and universal pre-k3 and pre-k4, and see a homegrown economic boom that leaves no one behind.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

The question "how do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?" incorrectly presumes that police reform and public safety are in opposition, which implies not just that police reform and public safety cannot be simultaneously achieved but that the many tragic police killings of Black people are somehow not in opposition to public safety. That framing is factually and morally wrong. We all deserve to be safe. The recent increase in crime, especially along Connecticut Avenue in Van Ness and Forest Hills, has rightfully led to stress and anxiety among those of us who frequent the corridor. Ward 3 deserves a response that will get results and not just make headlines. We need to address the root causes of crime so that we can prevent violence on our streets and in our neighborhoods. I've long argued that the best way to do so is through community policing. MPD currently has special liaison units that are examples of community policing and we used to do community policing about a decade ago. Community policing means getting our police back on patrol, in their vehicles and on foot. Our police spend ~22% of their time on patrol, which is 2/3s the national average. More frequent patrols means that our police will be better deterrents and have better response times as the police will be in our neighborhoods, not at the precinct. In addition, we need to invest in support services that put behavioral specialists on the front lines of helping people in need rather than relying on our police to handle everything - our police should be policing. Requiring our police to handle mental health crises and traffic enforcement keeps our police from the positive community engagement necessary to solve crimes.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

The phrase "there but for the grace of God go I" is a fundamental part of how we should approach fund-

ing and implementing our social welfare programs. With that in mind, while I have many social welfare priorities, my top three are: 1. Affordable housing for all, including ending chronic homelessness. 2. Ending childhood food insecurity. 3. Protecting reproductive rights in a post-Roe DC.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

We need sturdy, standardized, comprehensible frameworks for nonprofit engagement and participation coupled with robust oversight to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. If an organization is doing good work for the community in the absence of the District doing so, then that organization should be applauded and assisted by the District. Nonprofit organizations play a key role in how we deliver many of our targeted social services, especially to low-income households. The District needs to maintain and enhance its relationships with nonprofits, but should also seek to ensure that these relationships bear fruit for those who are the targets of this work.

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

I believe housing is a human right - that everyone deserves a roof over their head. Our need for affordable housing is likely our most pressing need right now. We need to ensure that current residents can afford to stay, workers can live closer to their jobs, and that we provide more housing for those on the economic margins in our city. I have a flexible, multi-pronged comprehensive plan to address our affordable housing crisis: 1. Establish an Acquisition Fund to have the financial structure in place to purchase properties to acquire or build housing; 2. Expand inclusionary zoning (IZ) requirements from 8% to 10-15%; 3. Invest in mixed-income social housing; 4. Rezone downtown DC from commercial-only to mixed-use residential and include schools and libraries and consider a land-use tax downtown; 5. Create stronger incentives for IZ units, especially in Ward 3; 6. Fully fund and creatively use the Housing Production Trust Fund and consider using the fund to procure IZ units to make available to DC's lowest-income residents, similar to Montgomery County; and 7. Consider expanding rent stabilization to buildings built more recently than 1975 and attach rent stabilization to a dynamic date, such as 15- or 25-year-old buildings. These commonsense policy proposals have been vetted by housing policy experts and have proven successful not just abroad but throughout our country. We owe it to our community to house the unhoused and to protect our friends and neighbors from displacement.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The paradigm we find ourselves in today is a gross reality with which we must deal and hopefully overcome. These security concerns need to be addressed on an immediate-term basis, but we also need to think long term about how to address the root causes of anti-Semitism and racism. In the immediate term, there are two things we can do - work to identify threats and work to mitigate threats. The FBI and MPD should already be working with our houses of worship on both threat identification and threat mitigation. Houses of worship often have their own security teams who are better at spotting potential threats, who often appear out of place. Houses of worship should also have up-to-date security/evacuation plans. Security teams should be interfacing with MPD on a regular basis to ensure that these plans are more than adequate and to share any information on potential threats. Over the long term, we must address income inequality and provide education to show that the dignity of

the person persists, regardless of race or creed. This means winning the war on poverty and fully funding our schools. While we address the root causes of anti-Semitism and racism, we must also have the moral courage of the privileged to call out anti-Semitism and racism as such to educate the ignorant and to chastise extremists.

BDS

Anti-Semitism will find no quarter with me.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

Yes. Jewish history is an integral part of current events, our legal system, the shaping of our geopolitics, as well as shaping a few of the world's major religions and being one itself. For most children, exposure to other cultures, traditions, and histories happens at school, rather than through travel. We would be mistaken to not celebrate and learn of each other's cultures, histories, and traditions in our schools.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Climate change is an existential threat and fighting it can seem hopeless. But it's not. These are issues I've thought deeply about and believe we need to address at the District level, not because we will be able to mitigate climate change on our own, but we need to do our part and to inspire those throughout the country to do their part as well. We can only successfully tackle climate change together, but someone has to lead the way. I'm proud to have the most robust, commonsense climate platform in this race. Here are my plans: 1. Increase our reliance on renewable energy. We need better solar incentives for residential buildings and stronger solar requirements for commercial buildings. 2. Reduce our reliance on natural gas. We need to prohibit the installation of gas appliances in new buildings and work to reduce the existing stock of gas appliances. 3. Transition to zero-emission fleets. We must transition the various District-owned fleets to zero-emission vehicles earlier than the District's goal of 2045. Our garbage trucks, school buses, and Circulators all have average lifespans of 15 years, which means that, through regular replacement that we would do anyway, we can have zero-emission fleets no later than 2037. 4. Increased Circulator and Metrobus service across Ward 3. Mass transit is more environmentally friendly and we need to expand its availability across Ward 3. 5. Install Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure. As we transition to electric vehicles, we'll also need to create EV infrastructure throughout the District. 6. Consider establishing a Carbon Fee. A carbon fee would act as a tax on our largest polluters. 7. Improve rainwater management to protect our rivers and limited wetlands from runoff.

Matthew Frumin



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Over a 15 year period, I have worked in my community, listening, building coalitions and getting important work done. To name just a few of my relevant experiences,

I have served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Commissioner and ANC Chair addressing both hyper local and citywide issues, President and Board member of Tenleytown Main Street supporting our local small businesses and Board President for a five star assisted living facility serving low income DC seniors that is on the cusp of building the first ever Housing Production Trust Fund project in Ward 3 which will deliver 93 units of deeply affordable senior housing. Working with leaders at Iona Senior Services, I helped launch a program that has dramatically increased wellness services to seniors. I built a citywide education advocacy group and kickstarted a Ward 3 group that have made a real difference delivering resources for our children's education and addressing school overcrowding in Ward 3. While my focus has been Ward 3, I have been active on issues across the city and have forged relationships and alliances that will help Ward 3 hear perspectives from around the city and be heard by others. I intend to work to make the Ward and city safer, more affordable, greener and an increasingly great place to raise a family and age in place. I have a track record and the demonstrated skill set to deliver in all of those areas. Moreover, these contentious times call for the kind of approach I take, working to build mutual respect, listening and using creativity to find a path forward. There are a number of great candidates in this race, but given my experience and approach, I am best situated to make a significant, positive difference for the Ward and city on the Council.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Over a 15 year period, I have worked in my community, listening, building coalitions and getting important work done. To name just a few of my relevant experiences, I have served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Commissioner and ANC Chair addressing both hyper local and citywide issues, President and Board member of Tenleytown Main Street supporting our local small businesses and Board President for a five star assisted living facility serving low income DC seniors that is on the cusp of building the first ever Housing Production Trust Fund project in Ward 3 which will deliver 93 units of deeply affordable senior housing. Working with leaders at Iona Senior Services, I helped launch a program that has dramatically increased wellness services to seniors. I built a citywide education advocacy group and kickstarted a Ward 3 group that have made a real difference delivering resources for our children's education and addressing school overcrowding in Ward 3. While my focus has been Ward 3, I have been active on issues across the city and have forged relationships and alliances that will help Ward 3 hear perspectives from around the city and be heard by others. I intend to work to make the Ward and city safer, more affordable, greener and an increasingly great place to raise a family and age in place. I have a track record and the demonstrated skill set to deliver in all of those areas. Moreover, these contentious times call for the kind of approach I take, working to build mutual respect, listening and using creativity to find a path forward. There are a number of great candidates in this race, but given my experience and approach, I am best situated to make a significant, positive difference for the Ward and city on the Council.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Crime is on the forefront of many of our residents' minds. It feels more dangerous and there seems like near constant reports of violent and scary crime including in neighborhoods where these issues rarely

occurred in the past. One need not be a social scientist to intuit that the rise in crime is related to the social and economic displacement of the COVID era. We know at some level that crime and social and economic conditions are linked in important ways. That does not change the reality that residents need and deserve to feel safe and that our police force has shrunken to particularly low levels. In the immediate term we need to grow our police force as we move to change its culture, mending its relationship with the most impacted communities. I like the ideas of focusing on hiring women and linking our cadet program to our high schools and encouraging community outreach programs like the kinds of police sponsored sports leagues and camps used in the past. Even as we grow our force though, we need to recognize that we will not incarcerate our way to safety. We need to lean in on strategies like violence interruption, connecting as much as possible with the small number of individuals most likely to find themselves on the wrong side of the law to get them to change their path. And, we must very seriously focus on the root causes of much of our crime - poverty and hopelessness. Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr., Bobby Kennedy and the Kerner Commission all urged us to focus on root causes. Richard Nixon ran on law and order. If we could go back in time, who among us would not choose the attacking the root cause path as our primary path?

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

I am taking liberty again and listing four. Education, mental health services, affordable housing and public safety. And they are linked. I have spent fifteen plus years as a passionate advocate for great public education. The importance of education was drilled into me by my mother who also was a relentless advocate for schools. And, for a reason. Education is the gateway to opportunity. Many in our community have had their worlds turned upside down by COVID. The need for mental health services has never been higher. And, our system is broken. We urgently must fix it and deliver for our residents with needs. It is very difficult for people to succeed if they do not have an affordable, stable place to live. Expanding our stock of affordable housing is key to solving every other social welfare issue. I have been a leader in this area as well, helping the Lisner Home, as Chair of its Board, land the first ever Housing Production Trust Fund award in Ward 3 to build 93 units of deeply affordable senior housing on our campus near Friendship Heights on Western Avenue. And, through my Temple - Temple Sinai - serving as a leader in the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) advocating for increased affordable housing in the Ward and city. Public safety is also key to the kind of stability our residents need to succeed. One piece of addressing public safety is through the police force, but among our best anti-crime strategies are attacking root causes through education, addressing our mental health crisis and providing stable and affordable housing.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

The nonprofit sector is a critical element of the response to important issues facing the city and a great source of ideas and advocacy. Most of the social services most effectively delivered in the city are delivered by non-profit organizations. It is important that the city closely track how its funds are used and how nonprofits are operating, but absolutely necessary that the city leverage its resources and energy through partnerships with and providing funding and support to the nonprofit sector. The list of nonprofit organizations that have made and can make a real difference in the lives

of our residents is long from Friendship Pace to Mary Center to Martha's Table to the Capital Area Food Bank to Whitman Walker. The list goes on and on. The nonprofit sector should be a resource and partner in tackling critical issues and a source of information and advocacy from the front lines in the fight against poverty, sickness and lack of opportunity.

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

I have devoted many years to trying to deliver increased affordable housing. One path is to leverage land owned by mission driven organizations, like the one I lead – the Lisner Home – to site affordable housing projects. Another is to use public lands and air rights over public buildings. Protecting green space and having buildings that are consistent with the scale of their neighborhood are also important, but we need to look for creative opportunities to leverage public assets for affordable housing. We also should be buying land for affordable housing, supporting land trusts and encouraging social housing models that have been successful in Europe. We should also be using whatever leverage the city has including subsidy to encourage private developers to increase the fraction of affordable units in private developments. In short, we have to use every tool in the toolbox to increase our affordable housing stock. We should also support increasing our housing stock overall through transit oriented development in order to keep up with demand and take upward pressure off of housing prices, otherwise it will not be long before nothing in the District is affordable. Finally, investment in schools maybe the most important, underused tool, in creating affordable housing. Families often limit where they look for a home based on whether there is a school path that is perceived to be great. If we truly invested in more schools in more parts of the city and increased confidence in the system, whole parts of the city might go on the list of places that more families might choose to live which would in turn, significantly increase the stock of potentially attractive workforce affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Each synagogue and faith-based agency should develop a detailed security plan to meet the needs of their situation. Our public safety agencies should stand ready to support those plans. There will not be a one-size-fits-all approach, but sadly, heightened security is part of our new reality. Each of our institutions must take that reality seriously and our public agencies should be expected to be maximally supportive in efforts to ensure safety.

BDS

I oppose the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

We should encourage economic connections between Israel and the District of Columbia. There already are relationships on many dimensions including and perhaps especially the arts. But the District seeks, for example, to be a leader on technology issues and Israel already is a leader in that area. Meanwhile, the District, and the region as a whole, is an excellent place to be located if one wishes to do business with the federal government. The District government should actively encourage economic partnerships between Israel and the

District of Columbia.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

The recent controversies around anti-Semitic comments by a DC Councilmember – the Rothschilds control the weather – underscores again the need for public education to combat stereotypes and hate. I would not encourage singling out Jews and Judaism in public education settings. One would be reluctant to get too close to mixing religion and a public institution. However, part of school should be learning about a long history of bigotry and antisemitism and, for example, the Holocaust, as that history is an important part of our history. Meanwhile, the District is blessed with phenomenal resources for out of school programs. Just as the African American and American Indian museums should be part of the school trip circuit, so should the Holocaust and upcoming Capital Jewish Museum.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

During Reconstruction Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner said that because the District was controlled by Republican Congress (it was a different era) on social and racial justice issues, the District should be “an example for all the land.” Climate is a critical, existential crisis for our time. We need to take action on all levels to address it. On the local, practical level, we need to create resiliency hubs and gird our energy transmission systems to be strong and nimble in the face of extreme weather events, including increasingly emphasizing microgrids, localized energy generation and energy storage. We need to manage our stormwater run off and where there is vulnerability, protect against the risk of flooding. Equally importantly, we need to be a part of the big picture solution and lead by example. We need to dramatically strengthen our public transit infrastructure and encourage non-car modes of transportation, increase density around transit hubs and look for opportunities to convert underutilized office space downtown to residential. We need to plug our most egregious methane leaks even as we move to an all-electric future. We need to move our public transit and fleets of public buses and trucks to all electric forthwith. We need to assist low and moderate income residents as they transition off reliance on natural gas to electricity and seek to utilize alternative technologies like solar power. We need to move to ensure that all new buildings are net zero emissions as promptly as practicable. In short, we should aspire to be on the cutting edge, pressing new technologies and approaches to minimize emissions to address this urgent crisis.

Eric Goulet



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have a 19-year track record of delivering solutions for our city. I am running on my record of productivity in roles across DC government, including as the council's budget

director during the Great Recession. During that time, DC experienced nine consecutive quarters of downward revenue projections. I helped us reduce spending in a way that preserved critical programs. I personally conceived of, and wrote, two of the most important pieces of legislation in the District's financial history: establishing a 12% debt cap and creating two new reserve accounts for end-of-year surpluses. These two laws are responsible for the District's Triple A bond rating.

It is easy to say yes to spending. I am the only candidate who has a record of eliminating waste. Given the billions by which the city's budget has grown in recent years and the impacts of the pandemic, we need to keep an eye on this. In 2012, I faced the challenge of closing a \$322.1 million structural budget gap. I created and chaired a Spending Pressure Task Force that uncovered and eliminated fraud in multiple programs.

However, I also know we need to invest in what works. I have worked with every member of the current council to get big things done. For example, I worked with education leaders and advocates to increase school funding and to fund universal pre-kindergarten. Now, we need to ensure we have capacity in Ward 3 schools to connect our families to those slots.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated pragmatic, responsible leadership. I have sought to find programmatic savings in DC agencies before considering tax increases. I have prioritized education, public safety, and economic development, which are the cornerstones of a well-run government. I want to bring my problem-solving skills to work for Ward 3.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My priorities for Ward 3 will be:

Addressing Ward 3 school overcrowding and make school options better for Ward 3 families by re-examining school feeder patterns, exploring the options for new school construction, increasing school funding to fully fund every school in every Ward, and completing the expansion of Birth-to-Three programs in the District.

Securing a generation of sustainable growth for the city by doing the budget work to ensure the financial viability of the Metro transit system and build new housing, including affordable housing, especially on transit corridors.

Providing effective constituent services.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

In DC, we need to solve both immediate public safety issues and tackle the root causes of crime. The good news is that we have the resources we need to do both.

We need to rebuild our police department to 4,000 sworn officers, so we can provide effective community policing by getting officers out on foot and on bike. In the previous administration, I worked with Chief Cathy Lanier to fund her plan to increase our police force from 3,600 officers to just over 4,000. This allowed us to expand community policing efforts, which reduced homicides to a 50-year low in DC. This is not about trying to arrest our way out of crime. It's about strengthening an essential police-community relationship built around trust, engagement, and the shared pursuit of a safe and lively city. We also need to do more work to keep guns off our streets.

To that end, we also need to address police accountability. It has become clear that it's too hard to fire problem officers, which is bad for the morale of our many good officers.

Finally, I have worked on health and human

services issues in our city for years. We need to expand our behavioral health programs to help more people struggling with addiction and mental health issues, which are always serious but have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

Investing in people is a great way to reduce crime. I want to:

Improve job training programs to reduce poverty and its impact on our communities

Expand afterschool and summer programs for our youth

Build workforce housing in Ward 3 so that our police, firefighters, and teachers can live in the neighborhoods they serve

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

The District has a long history of partnering with non-profit organizations to address community needs. From organizations involved with violence interruption or homeless outreach, to groups that are helping seniors, resettling refugees, or improving our public parks, there is probably no city in the country that has more non-profit groups, or more that work with their local government. I have found that is often more efficient and effective for the DC government to contract with non-profits to support certain public functions. I am committed to continuing this tradition, and to help streamline the processes DC agencies use to identify, partner with, and fund nonprofits so that we are all spending less time filling out bureaucratic paper work and more time delivering services to our citizens.

The lack of affordable housing impacts a variety of social welfare issues – from ensuring that those who serve (or have served) our community, such as teachers, first responders, veterans and other government employees, can live in it, to allowing us to provide sanctuary for those fleeing war and persecution, to providing for the unhoused and protecting long-time residents from being displaced and replaced by economic development.

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

I conceived of, and personally drafted legislation to significantly expand resources in the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) by dedicating 50% of undesignated District surpluses to the HPTF upon the District reaching 60 days cash-on-hand. This legislation has provided a total of \$708.4 million to HPTF over the last three years (\$283.2 in FY 2021, \$263.4 in FY 2020, \$161.8 in FY 2019).

With this large infusion of funds, the District could use the Trust Fund in new ways, such as providing for greater assistance to help renters finance a purchase under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which would preserve affordable housing and increase home ownership for renters who are more likely to be within the 0-30% AMI range. I believe that we need to use HPTF to support more projects for residents making between 60-120% Area Median Income (AMI). In particular, I support investments in Ward 3 workforce housing to ensure that our teachers, firefighters/EMTs, and police officers who serve Ward 3 residents can afford to buy a home for their family in our Ward 3 community. In general I strongly support building more housing in Ward 3, particularly around Metrorail stations and bus lines.

In the past few years, the FBI, ADL, the Metropolitan Police Department and others have reported a spike in hate crimes generally and antisemitic incidents specifically.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

The national rise in hate crimes and antisemitic incidents is a direct result of right wing national leaders and media personalities cozying up to, winking at, or turning a blind eye towards, white supremacists. It is unforgivable and must be called out and addressed in the harshest of terms. I support fully funding our police force to 4,000 officers, ensuring that we work with the FBI to monitor and shut down those who would commit violence in our city, and that we push the justice department to aggressively prosecute hate crimes of every type.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

The BDS movement has painfully divided our Jewish Community and larger community where it has been pushed. It has been unproductive in bringing people together to talk about differences and paths forward towards peace in the middle east. I would oppose any effort for the District government to support the BDS campaign.

What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel? (Optional)

I am not familiar with any economic initiatives between the DC and Israel and I have not given any thought to the issue.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported, should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

The national debate over what should, and should not, be taught in our classrooms has been terribly politicized with right and left accusing each other or proselytizing, or white washing, or rewriting history. The most important thing we can do to educate young people to become productive citizens is to teach them to be critical thinkers. This requires presenting history through multiple lenses, teaching how to understand and evaluate these lenses, and creating safe spaces within classrooms for students and teachers to discuss difficult and controversial issues. To this end, Jewish history, as well as the histories of the multitude of groups represented in our public schools and city, should be taken into account and explored as an opportunity to produce better educated and more sensitive students and citizens.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels, flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

During her 16-year career as a DC Councilmember, Mary Cheh has been a national leader on environmental issues. I would seek to continue her legacy of supporting initiatives that protect the environment and keep us as the nation's leader in trying to reverse climate change.

The single most important thing that we can do is to make it easy for as many people as possible to live in proximity to each other and to destinations so that when they travel, they can do so without a car. I will support a comprehensive plan process that can deliver on this.

One issue that we need to address immediately is ensuring that Metro can remain financially viable. Metro's financial struggles were already very apparent prior to COVID. We need more regional and federal dedicated funding to ensure Metrorail and bus have a financially viable future. A reliable and safe transit system is essential to allow our residents to travel to work and school. If rail and bus are not affordable and convenient, then more people will choose to drive.

We also need to look at other structural ways to build a "green" lens into our city's policies. I want to work with the Tax Revision Commission as they consider revisions to our tax code to incentivize environmental sustainability and smart growth housing policies. For example, the conversion of downtown office space into affordable housing.

We can also be a role model in how we spend public money. We should require newly constructed DC Government buildings to be net-zero carbon and comply with Appendix Z of the DC Building Code.

I also commit to fully funding the Zero Waste Omnibus Act of 2002, and I support placing any funds from the sale of RFK site into a special purpose revenue fund used exclusively for environmental protection.

Monte Monash



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Ward 3 deserves a committed leader with a strong voice, who understands how to get things done in our city. I am a native Washingtonian with deep roots in

Northwest DC. I have lived in Ward 3 for 20 years and my husband and I bought our home here. I am an entrepreneur, taxpayer, and parent of two kids in DC schools — one in DCPS and the other an independent school. Service is in my blood. I served as chair of the mayor-appointed DC Public Library board, which oversees the ongoing transformation of DC's 26 public libraries. I served on the ReOpen DC task force during the height of the pandemic and in various citywide, volunteer leadership roles at nonprofits supporting seniors, unhoused families and workforce development. For 28 years, Ward 3 has had strong women to represent the voice of our community. I have the breadth of experience and proven ability to bring change. As a minority woman entrepreneur, I have built a business and built relationships that get infrastructure, transportation and sustainability projects done. In the last 15 years there haven't been many water, roadway, bridge, airport, environmental, flood control and wastewater projects in the District that I haven't been involved in as an adviser to engineering firms, small, minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs that government agencies hire to deliver vital public works projects. My intention as a councilmember is to ensure Ward 3 benefits from the city's growth while preserving the unique characteristics that make our neighborhoods a great place to live, learn, work and play. My priority will be to emphasize responsive constituent services and to develop policies that address the needs and interests of children and families, seniors, and small business of all types in Ward 3. I know how to get things done in our city and will put that experience to work for the residents of Ward 3 and the District.

What are the 3 things that you want

to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Public safety. Every one of us should feel safe in our ward and throughout the district. There is no acceptable level of crime. And, unfortunately, crimes of all types are on the rise in DC and in Ward 3. I support the Metropolitan Police Department's request for more officers but I will not sign off on reduced police oversight. More MPD officers should be visible in Ward 3 and throughout the city, not just in squad vehicles but also on bikes and on foot. How our local officers interact with the community, though, is most important. I support ongoing training to promote a responsive force that builds relationships in Ward 3's neighborhoods and commercial areas. Preserve mayoral control of schools. I strongly support continuing mayoral control and accountability for DC's public schools — traditional and charter. With the Council providing oversight and allocating resources, and with parents participating at the school level to ensure quality and responsive programming, DC has an appropriate system of checks and balances to promote student success and equity. More competitive economy. We must support mixed-use development to enliven our commercial corridors. We must add housing, communal retail experiences and other amenities to better connect our neighborhoods and the larger community. We must revise policies that create barriers for existing and new businesses to stay and grow in Ward 3 and throughout the District and give landlords incentives to rent to such businesses. Now is the time to attract and support businesses that will create in-ward jobs, offer conveniences and move us to a safe pedestrian and bike-friendly community.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

How our local officers interact with the community is most important. I support ongoing training to promote a responsive force that builds relationships in Ward 3's neighborhoods and commercial areas. I will never lose sight of the fact that law enforcement at all levels should be uninfluenced by bias. Often the right responder to an emergency call isn't a police officer at all. I support the employment of more street-level social workers and other professionals like violence interrupters and credible messengers who are trained to interact with and help individuals experiencing mental health and addiction issues. Related, I support a state-of-the-art 911 system and a fire and paramedic squad with the training and resources to respond quickly, skillfully and compassionately to the enormous variety of emergencies that a day in DC can present. MPD should be tightly integrated with regional and national efforts to detect, investigate and interrupt threats to the District of Columbia that originate outside DC's borders to protect against domestic and other terrorism.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

Homelessness. My two decades of community service includes serving on the board of Friendship Place, a Ward 3-based nonprofit that shares my belief that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring. On the Council, I will continue to support DC agencies and local nonprofits that take a case-management approach to ending homelessness in our city by providing compassionate wraparound support to individuals and families. Mental health for school children. As a parent of two young boys, I am intent on

finding solutions to make up for learning loss caused by the pandemic and remote learning — impacts on academics and children's mental health that we're only beginning to understand. And we know that the impact has been greater on more vulnerable children and families. As our children rebound from the last two years, we need to continue to support our teachers inside and outside of the classroom, in Ward 3 and citywide. Health care access. Health care access very much determines health care outcomes. My focus as Ward 3 councilmember will be ensuring that our hospitals continue to be widely available resources for quality care — for anyone in DC. Our ward is fortunate to have top-notch in-ward medical facilities, but the same can't be said of throughout the District. On the Council, I will work with and support my colleagues to increase access and quality of health care. One of the few positives of the COVID-19 pandemic was that it forced a long overdue expansion and acceptance of telehealth. Certainly anyone who prefers or needs to see a health professional in person should be able to do so, but as we exit the pandemic, we shouldn't turn back from virtual consultations that are convenient, private and safe. Effective telemedicine relies on reliable internet access and technology, so I would support continuing to expand that access until it is universal — and universally affordable or free to seniors and residents of need — in the District of Columbia.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Nonprofit organizations, including some faith-based nonprofits, are often able to provide more effective and efficient services than government in areas such as vocational training, medical services, housing, educational and more. Organizations such as Bread for the City, Jewish Social Service Agency and Friendship Place, where I served on the board. These organizations have expertise, and by contracting, the city can flexibly adjust operations to meet current needs. Moreover, these organizations are usually closest to the people in need of services and best able to reach them. I support efforts to continue those partnerships and to routinely review ways to streamline the contracting process for nonprofits and for-profits, as well, so that organizations can focus more on the work that they do and less on contracting and administrative burdens. The Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020 is just one example of that.

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

With a shortage of housing across the city, and rising rents and home prices, Ward 3 must be a part of the solution to the lack of affordable housing. Residents who are already in a place they love should be protected by stability in rents and property tax rates and I will advocate for those protections when I am on the Council. I will work to ensure that affordable housing in Ward 3 will be inclusive, with priority for units and programs going to low- and moderate-income families, seniors, teachers, veterans and first responders. I will look for ways to subsidize more first-time home purchases, so that more households have access to the benefits that come with ownership. Creative ideas will help to solve this complex problem. We can expand our housing stock by adopting proven models for affordability, such as social housing and limited equity co-ops. Our commercial corridors along transit lines must play a major role in a District-wide strategy to offer affordable housing located near community employers and nearby employment centers.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes, in their communities, and in their places of worship. Yet hate crimes are on the rise nationally and in the District. And when it comes to religious-based crimes, antisemitism tops the list. The District government must support our faith communities in enhancing the security of their buildings, helping them anticipate and prepare against threats and violence, such as we saw with the despicable defacement of the historic Sixth & I Synagogue in December 2019. Federal funds have become available in recent years for this effort, to pay for security cameras and other equipment, as well as technical expertise and training. The Mayor announced \$2.8 million in federal grants for faith-based organizations last September, and we need to continue this work. I'd like to see the District also explore funds for operating expenses for faith-based organizations, such as hiring security officers, something that Montgomery County initiated this year. MPD should be tightly integrated with regional and national efforts to detect, investigate and interrupt threats to the District of Columbia that originate outside DC's borders to protect against domestic and other terrorism. These efforts do not directly keep people safe from hate crimes when they are on the street, and we know that there are too many incidents of antisemitic assaults and harassment, in addition to other crimes targeted at people of other religions and people who identify as BIPOC or LGBTQ+. As a Council member, I will support funding for prosecution of hate crimes, support efforts to encourage people to report hate crimes, and support the work of the Interfaith Preparedness and Advisory Group, established by the Mayor.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I am committed to the security of Israel and its right to exist. People in good faith hold differing positions on some actions and policies of the Israeli government and I support everyone's right to promote their views. But I do not support BDS, which at best weakens Israel and undermines its legitimacy and, at worst, can be anti-Semitic and contributes to a climate that is increasingly hostile to members of the Jewish community. I would fight any efforts through the District government to put limitations on economic or other ties with the people, organizations, and businesses of Israel.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As with all existing and potential trade partners, I want to see DC build relationships, promote DC businesses, and promote the District as a destination. Our trade with Israel is modest, and I'd like to see more efforts like the Mayor's 2019 trade mission to Israel as a way to increase that. Efforts at economic growth must be diverse, and trade with foreign countries, including Israel, must be a part of that.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

All students should see themselves represented in the world around them and that includes in school. Curriculum should incorporate, as appropriate,

elements of Jewish history. For example, anti-Semitism and the study of the Holocaust are critical elements of any study of the history of intolerance and religious persecution. Lessons should include Black, Latinx, Jewish, and Muslim leaders, artists, inventors, and figures relevant to the subjects being taught, along with those of other faiths, backgrounds, races, and so on.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Under the leadership of retiring Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, Mayor Muriel Bowser and other councilmembers, DC has become a model of environmental innovation and climate resilience. Key pieces of legislation, such as the Clean Energy Act of 2018, have created the infrastructure for DC to make meaningful, tangible strides toward mitigating climate impacts and making our city a more sustainable place to live and work. Throughout DC we are seeing more use of solar and other forms of renewable energy in homes and businesses, greater energy efficiency in construction, and protection and promotion of DC's enviable urban tree canopy and its cooling and carbon-trapping properties. As a councilmember, I will continue to build on the progress the Council has made while working with DC agencies, the DC Green Bank and other District programs and offices to support future innovation and new investments. I will also encourage Ward 3 residents to participate in sustainability dialogues and activities that contribute to DC's sustainability plans. As an advocate for equity in all District policies, practices and programs, I would like to see more done to support workforce development, so that more of DC's citizens can participate in the green economy. I will continue on the Council to evaluate and pursue policy options that make our systems more sustainable, resilient and secure. Some ideas include more net-zero buildings, increasing DC's infrastructure for electric vehicles and e-bikes and encouraging more climate-resilient systems that incorporate solar plus storage. With federal infrastructure investment, now is also the time to upgrade our aged, buried infrastructure of pipes, cable and gas lines to provide safer and more reliable utility services.

Phil Thomas



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am running to be the next Ward 3 Councilmember because I am invested in Ward 3. I first moved to the Ward (Palisades) in 2009 to take care of my grandparents and my great aunt. I fell in love with the community and immediately got involved. I became an Elementary school teacher at Mundo Verde Bilingual and was elected as an ANC Commissioner. A few years later, I accepted a job as the Mayor's liaison to Ward 3; a position that required me to solve big problems and little problems for Ward 3 residents. I joined the executive board of the Palisades Neighborhood's Association and the Police 2nd District Citizens Advisory Council. I was later elected Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee and President of the Federation of Community Associations. Last year, I continued my public service when I became

the Director of the Mayor's Office of the Clean City where I worked on environmental equity across the city. I have been proud to have served Ward 3 for more than a decade. My community and government experience has prepared me to serve again as your next Councilmember. I'm asking for your vote and I'm promising to make you proud if elected as your next Councilmember.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

I am running on a platform called 3 S's and an H. I am focused on Seniors, Schools, Safety and Housing. As Ward 3 Councilmember I want to bring a Senior Wellness Center to Ward 3, reduce overcrowding in our neighborhood schools, fight to maintain Mayoral control of our schools, drive down crime, and bring affordable housing so our teachers and public safety officers can live in the communities they serve.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As Ward 3 Councilmember I will take a holistic approach to public safety. I am in favor of hiring more police who were born here, raised here, and live in the community in which they serve. I would also like to see more women in the police force. We also need to invest more in successful strategies to prevent crime like violence interrupters, credible messengers, roving leaders, and neighborhood watch programs. I will work with my colleagues on the Council to make sure the police force has all the resources they need to hire, retain and to bolster the effectiveness of public safety.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

As Ward 3 Councilmember my top three priorities are decreasing homelessness, improving quality of life for seniors, and public education. We know the pathway to end homelessness is housing and as someone who worked on the Homeward DC Plan and I was instrumental in getting the Short Term Family Housing built. It is imperative we do as much as we can for the homelessness community, and I will advocate for the homeless in the city's budget. Next, I would focus on our most vulnerable population, our seniors. Seniors should be able to congregate, enjoy fitness classes, and have access to healthy meals in their own ward. I plan to bring a brink-and-mortar senior wellness center to Ward 3, which will be Metro-accessible and ADA compliant. As a former Elementary school teacher, I would also prioritize public education to make sure it is equitable for all students in the District. We have not reached the point in DC where families can walk into any public school and know that their child is receiving a high-quality education. Although there have been improvements in public education since Mayoral control, the achievement gap between black and low-income families and their white middle-class peers has only increased since the pandemic. I would address it by committing additional educational resources for at-risk children in low income areas, ensuring they have the proper funding they need to succeed, as well as investing in capital improvements that reflect our greatest needs.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

As a bridge builder I support everyone having a seat at the table. I will have an open door policy and will always advocate and work with nonprofit organizations.

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

I support building more housing across the city and in Ward 3. It really comes down to working with the city and the residents to find realistic locations west of Rock Creek Park to put deep affordable housing. I want to continue to invest in the Housing Production Trust Fund, ensuring that the trust fund meets its statutory requirements including passing the HPTF transparency amendment act which better allocates funding for deep affordable units. The consolidated request for proposal has additional funding sources in it and requires that at least 5% of units have permanent supportive housing. However HPTF is not the best way to achieve under 30% AMI housing, and we need to support construction of buildings utilizing other rental subsidy programs such as Low income housing tax credits and the local rental supplement program is what really helps produce deep affordable units. The city has to take the lead on building affordable units across the city and do a better job working with builders.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I will work with synagogues and other houses of worship to make sure they have all the support and security they need to feel safe. I support the Washington Interfaith Network and other faith-based organizations having a seat at the table. I will have an open door policy and plan to work with our community stakeholders.

BDS

I support freedom, justice and equality for all people of the world.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

N/A

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

I support a curriculum that provides well-rounded education of the histories and cultures of all represented students in DCPS.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

As the former Director of the Mayor's Office of the Clean City I have worked on policies to make D.C. more resilient, sustainable, and healthy. As the next Ward 3 Councilmember I will continue to work with DOEE and support legislation to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. With the stock of older apartment buildings in Ward 3, I will support energy retrofits to bring these buildings in line with today's energy standards. I will push policies that allow us to better utilize the DC Green Bank which will provide financing for sustainable infrastructure. I also support DOEE's Building Performance Standards as well as Solar For All. I will work with the DC Sustainable Energy Utility to make sure residents know about low- or no-cost products and programs to make their homes more energy-efficient.

CANDIDATES FOR WARD 5 MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Gordon-Andrew Fletcher



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Ward 5 is incredibly diverse. Our suburban feel and varied housing stock attracts people of all backgrounds, immigrants, big city transplants and native Washingtonians. My three terms as an

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in 5A08 have allowed me to serve all those constituencies and provide for their needs, be it food, housing, or aid from a city agency. To meet the needs of such diverse ward you need measured leadership that holds true to Democratic values. As a two term Chair of the Ward 5 Democrats and former Democratic Committeeman, I have the proven credentials. To many the Council is leaning too far left. Given the public safety, economic, housing, and mental health challenges will be facing for years to come, we need a pragmatic approach to governance. I am progressive in some areas but can still focus on the bread-and-butter issues residents need addressed. Are our streets safe to cross? Is gun crime down? Can I afford to live in the District anymore? As a senior citizen will rising property taxes eclipse my fixed income? Are our local public schools safe and up to the task of educating our children? These are questions I hear every day since I began this campaign in July 2021. As the first person to enter this race, I have knocked on more doors and walked more of this ward than any other candidate. I am the best candidate for Councilmember because I have listened to more residents than any other candidate. I have already met the needs of constituents in my Single Member District and I will apply that same dedication to the rest of Ward 5.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

A significant number of my constituents are seniors. In fact, Ward 5 has the largest population of seniors in public housing. One of the first things we need to address is the quantity and quality of public housing in Ward 5 and across the District. Frankly, some of the conditions our seniors live in are not fit for your worst enemy. Quality public housing should be the rule not the exception. I would call for an assessment of all public housing and a comprehensive plan to bring all dwellings up to current code. Second, I would seek to reestablish the Council's Education Committee and call for more transparency in the school budgeting process. A significant number of Ward 5 students commute across town, to wealthier wards, to attend a high quality, competitive public school. At the same time, school administrators and parents I have spoken to see the school budget process as opaque at best. The result is that schools in poorer wards continue to struggle, while schools in wealthier wards are increasingly in demand. Your local school should be your best option, not a last resort. I would call for a comprehensive assessment of all public schools and

a transparent budget process that accounts for each school's individual needs. Third, I would advocate to have certain responsibilities moved from the Metropolitan Police Department (such as parking enforcement, ticketing) to other city agencies in an effort get more officers out on the street. I would also secure funding to expand community policing. Such safety efforts improve quality of life and foster a sense of community among neighbors.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As stated above, I support shifting some of the responsibilities and functions of MPD to non-police agencies, such as using the Department of Behavioral Health to respond to mental health crises, or DDOT to handle traffic accident investigations, for example. I will work to ensure the NEAR Act is properly enforced and obtain regular data from MPD about "stop and frisk" and other similar practices to ensure more transparency and accountability. We need to review and reconfigure how we train police. We need culturally competent officers that know and build relationships with residents. Police cars patrolling the streets is helpful but getting officers out of their cars and walking the neighborhood goes a long way toward bettering police-community relations and humanizing both parties. I also support efforts to ensure that officers who are working in our community are from the community. I will invest in workforce housing that would allow more of the District's teachers and first responders to afford to live in the District. Lastly, I support efforts to empower residents to have more control over the safety of their neighborhoods. I will encourage this by restoring funding for community-led patrols and am open to Public Advisory Boards the serve as conduits between the police and the public.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

With the socio-economic effects of COVID still being felt across the District, my top three social welfare priorities are ensuring those on fixed incomes can continue to age in place in Ward 5; providing incentives to small businesses in the ward to hire from within the ward; and increase access to healthcare and mental health resources to the elderly, working poor and unhoused.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Given number and quality of non-profit organizations based in the region, it makes sense that public support or partnerships exist. Different perspectives can often bring about novel solutions to the issues facing the District. Also, in some communities (such as the unhoused or non-citizens), nonprofit organizations have greater sway, trust and influence than local government. In addition, local government must be nimble and innovative in addressing the needs of residents. No one entity can possibly have the answers to all the problems we face. As such, I am in favor of public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations.

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

The Council has several means at its disposal to promote the production of affordable housing. Such as: 1. Ensuring that inclusionary zoning

laws apply throughout the District of Columbia. Since the passing of inclusionary zoning laws, our Comprehensive Plans have allowed wide swaths of the city to be exempt from the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments. Major development zones such as NoMa are not required to include income-restricted units, while market-rate rents exclude low to moderate income renters and condominium buyers. 2. We have no real rent-control or rent-stabilization laws. Rent control applies to increasingly aging buildings and units, while new developments can raise rents at will, often pricing out long-term renters. 3. Developments approved for the construction of subsidized, or income-restricted, housing should not be allowed to jettison lower-income units after approval and receipt of government incentives. 4. Identifying abandoned and vacant homes and providing purchase assistance to bring these properties back into circulation as affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I am a proponent of DC statehood. Right now the District is not a state so in the event of a security concern at a house of worship, we cannot call on the National Guard to protect those sites. We must request it of the federal government and as seen on January 6, a delay can have dire consequences. I side with Mayor Bowser in asking that the authority to call the National Guard reside with the Office of the Mayor. I would convene a gathering of representatives of all the key religious groups in the District to assess that their security concerns and determine what assistance the government can provide to harden security. Lastly, I would call for a review of our local laws to see where we can increase penalties for actions against houses of worship, or acts of violence based on someone's race, gender, or religious views.

BDS

Like the majority of states, I question the effectiveness of BDS measures.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

As someone running in a local race, I have not developed positions or proposals regarding the relationship between DC and Israel.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

The Jewish community is as much a part of the fabric of the District as African Americans, Latinos, Asians and other groups. U.S. history can be very biased toward European influence. To elevate marginalized communities and provide a well-rounded, true account of history, it is imperative that DCPS curriculum accounts for the contributions of various backgrounds. I am an immigrant, and the U.S. is a nation of immigrants. As such our curriculum must account for them. I would call for an assessment of the DCPS curriculum, in conjunction with leading academics and community groups to develop proposed updates to curriculum and determine the best way to incorporate that into the school day.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather

events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Unfortunately, Ward 5 has is home to more industrial sites than any other ward in the city, the effects of which some call environmental racism. To promote better air quality, press Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA), Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to transition to electric buses in Ward 5, through the Zero-Emission Bus Program. Second, I would enforce The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Act of 2018, by reducing the District's dependence on fossil fuels, and require better enforcement of Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) in all new construction in the city. To incentivize energy efficiency in public housing, call for an increase in the financial aid allocation available under the Clean Energy Law from \$3 million to \$5 million. Third, I continue to support the Green New Deal, advocating for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the worst consequences of climate change, while also addressing societal problems like economic inequality and racial injustice.

Faith Gibson Hubbard



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am running for the Ward 5 DC Council seat because I believe in the power of community. At every phase of my life, both personally and professionally, I have seen how when we work in partnership

with community life is just better and the solutions, we arrive at together, yield greater outcomes. I have served in many roles inside and outside of government, but what I am most proud of is my ability to build coalitions; to lean into and trust the lived experiences of neighbors in solving the most pressing issues. For over a decade, I've been doing this work, on the front lines, starting first in my beloved Ward 5 when I became deeply involved with the Ward Five Council on Education, serving as president for several years, partnering with our neighbors around issues of public education quality, access, and predictable pathways. I have established two government offices – the Office of the Student Advocate and Thrive by Five DC – and served as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs leading important work in our community at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic managing 13 community facing offices. While there is so much to love about Ward 5, I am keenly aware of the pressing issues impacting our ward. Those issues include the increasing cost of housing, a need for community-centered development, increasing issues of safety (both gun violence and safe streets); ensuring our neighbors are prepared for our changing economy and workforce; and so much more. Addressing these issues requires a responsive and accessible government, and we can address these issues in a holistic way that serves the needs and interests of our diverse Ward; but it must be informed with community-voice. As the next Ward 5 Councilmember, I would fight to make sure our great ward gets the resources, attention, and seat at the decision-making table we deserve. I am the only candidate that has the experience navigating government to get things done for our neighbors of Ward 5 and throughout the city. We are at a critical point where we need a representative that can work with community to help craft tangible solutions to move our ward forward. My experience has taught

me how to do just that with community in ways that have yielded results.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Refocus on constituent services and presence in the community. Reconnect with community leaders and create a community leaders advisory committee. Create a workforce housing fund - Using the Housing Production Trust Fund as a model, create dedicated funding focused on the development of workforce housing. This fund would explore ways to subsidize affordable housing options for low to moderate income workers with the goal of creating an opportunity for workers to live and work in the District. Supporting Small Business Growth - appropriate funding for on-the-job training slots dedicated to DC small businesses to strengthen our workforce pipeline. Identify and allocate funding for technical assistance, access to capital programs for targeted businesses, peer to peer mentorship programmatic support, the creation of incubator space and support for small businesses, and other supports to foster entrepreneurship and small business growth.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I believe in a balanced approach that includes prevention and intervention, as well as accountability, consequences, and responsiveness to stop the terror that is playing out in our communities. We need a public health approach that also includes coordination and communication between law enforcement, community-based organizations and our court system. As a community we have an opportunity to change the current climate of violence in our community by working to: Address the root causes of violence and crime and focus on holistic, community-centered solutions; Invest in prevention, intervention and appropriate responses Ensure that we have an adequate police force that can effectively serve our community; investing in training and best practices to reduce harm caused by police and continuing to modernize our police force to enable positive partnerships with the community Refocus our systems on a more people-centered approach to violence and public safety Increase funding to support the growth and expansion of community-based mental health providers to meet the unique needs of communities and prioritize the ability of new mental health facilities to be located within communities with the greatest need Establish a Rapid Response team to offer immediate support to communities in crisis and experiencing violence but are not currently connected to a violence interruption partner. The Rapid Response team would include members from the ONSE office, OAG's Cure the Streets, and Building Blocks DC. Promote transparency regarding how funding is spent on public safety efforts by developing a comprehensive framework of public safety investments in the District. Scale community outreach efforts to share with communities what efforts are operating in the public safety space and how the programs/resources can be supportive of community needs (i.e. establish a website or portal where residents can access information about the programs and make support requests). Use MPD data to better inform our community violence prevention efforts. Expand opportunities for data sharing across violence interruption programs and MPD to be more strategic and community-focused. Balance our public safety funding to include more robust violence interrupter staffing and community intervention programming. In the space of public safety and support we have quite a bit of work to do. I am open to revisions to the DC code but would want to convene the right partners and stakeholders

to support that process. I believe groups like the DC Justice Lab, Black Swan, violence interruption and returning citizens partners, and others need to be at the table to ensure the right steps are taken to make sure we are not just creating more punitive measures but also thinking about opportunities for prevention, interventions, and ways to invest in our communities as a part of our long-term strategies.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

My top three priorities would be: Increased focus on our city's workforce pipeline for the changing economy in the District. I will fight for deeper investments in the area of the expansion of apprenticeship programs and career technical education. I want to connect our workforce development and exploration more closely to how we prepare our youngest residents and older residents to quality workforce opportunities. Access to affordable housing. Safe, affordable, sustainable, quality housing is a fundamental right and provides a foundation for communities to thrive, with shared prosperity. I will fight to prioritize housing affordability to meet the unique needs of all Ward 5 residents by: prioritizing low-income options for affordable units for rent; strengthening safety net programs to eliminate housing insecurity and displacement; enabling long-time residents to age in place; the creation of distinct funding for workforce housing; expanding first-time homebuyers programs for multiple income levels and capacities; and, supporting programs designed to help residents progress in their homeownership and stay in the city. In the District neighbors have the ability to access various resources and support that are not often connected to make the process more streamlined for neighbors and families. I will fight to create stronger linkages between our safety net programs and other community-based programs that support the holistic needs of residents - such as educational needs, workforce needs, and other social service supports and resources. I believe we must create a streamlined, cross-agency case management process to help residents navigate the city's support systems and make our program support more responsive to the immediate needs of families. This can be achieved through oversight and legislative action to make sure we have truly responsive system.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

I strongly believe in government offering public support or establishing partnerships within the community-based and non-profit organizational space in the District. We have seen, even most recently, how impactful community-based organizations can be in bridging the gap between community and government. Often times community-based organizations are closer to the issues and are trusted partners in the community that have the ability to re-establish trust that might have been lost between community and government. I have seen this in action first hand, as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we partnered with community-based organizations to help get out resources and information to the community. Faith-based partners are another get partner in the work.

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

Safe, affordable, sustainable, quality housing is a fundamental right and provides a foundation for communities to thrive, with shared prosperity. I will fight to prioritize housing affordability to meet the unique needs of all Ward 5 residents by: prioritizing low-income options for affordable units for rent; strengthening safety net programs to eliminate housing insecurity and displacement; enabling long-

time residents to age in place; the creation of distinct funding for workforce housing; expanding first-time homebuyers programs for multiple income levels and capacities; and, supporting programs designed to help residents progress in their homeownership and stay in the city. There are numerous steps that can be taken and I have listed a host of policy areas to focus in on my website at <https://faithforward5dc.org/affordable-housing-full/>.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

First, I support making sure that we have an adequate police force that can be responsive to the diverse, and very unique, needs of our communities. Secondly, I believe we must continue to foster close working relationships with our federal partners to ensure to intel that is received can be acted upon quickly. Third, I believe an important element of the safety of our faith-based institutions is in the partnership community, government, and faith-based institutions are able to foster. As a councilmember, I would be a champion to make sure our faith-based partners get the support they need and deserve to be able to thrive, and be safe, within our communities.

BDS

I am aware of the movement but would like to talk with your council further

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

I have some knowledge about this economic relationship but would like to talk with your council further about this economic relationship and partnership.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

I have two children in DC Public Schools. I strongly believe that curriculum in our schools need to be inclusive and celebrate the broad diversity of our community.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

As a whole, Washington, DC has more environmentally-friendly buildings and healthy, green spaces than most urban centers. Yet, it is well-known that our Ward 5 neighborhoods have benefited the least from our city's environmental development. For decades, the majority of our city's industrial land use has been in Ward 5. This has degraded the quality of the air, limited our access to green spaces, and put the health of some of our residents in jeopardy. Much of this has been due to bad policy decisions and poor regulation, stemming from a period of housing segregation and redlining in our city's history, and continuing over decades with efforts to create business opportunity zones in and near our neighborhoods. We now know better and we must do better. We must first acknowledge the harm that has been done to our communities and create the pathway to make it right. ALL of our residents must have homes free of lead or asbestos, healthy air quality, clean water and healthy green outside spaces to enjoy; Local and federal funds have been allocated for our city to address climate change and environmental remedies. Ward 5 neighborhoods should be prioritized for city projects that will mitigate industrial and other environmental hazards; Ward 5 communities should have priority access to city funding for energy-

efficiency and environmental improvement projects; A whole-government approach to understanding and correcting our environmental issues is the most effective way of addressing policy, regulations and enforcement for environmental preservation and justice. We will follow up on the 2014 Ward 5 Industrial Land Transformation Study, which recommends we target 1000 acres of our industrial land for a hub or green, food, tech and creative businesses. Of course, there must be true partnership between government and community members in neighborhood and city decision-making. As the next Ward 5 councilmember, I will fight hard to make sure that our beautiful Ward 5 receives the attention and resources it deserves to improve our neighbors' environmental quality and overall health and well-being.

Kathy Henderson

Did not submit a response

Gary Johnson

Did not submit a response

Arthur Lloyd

Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I believe I bring wisdom based on experience and knowledge of what those in the cities lowest income levels need to survive comfortable in our city.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Establish mental health treatment facilities (2). Revise Juvenile Justice system require job and career training, start up business & 2 year college.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Police reform starts with testing for racial biasness The Law must require Judges & prosecutors to give the same sentences to all violators.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

An affordable income for single mothers with children.(2).

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Partnerships with non-profit organizations should be encouraged.

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

City partnerships with developers, whereas city tax money can help subsidize affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The use of camera's directly connected to police stations.

BDS

I am not aware of Divestments and Sanctions movement.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

I believe the District should develop economic relationships, student exchange&Business training

programs; this will help our students development.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

All history that is supported by facts should be included in our cities public school curriculum.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

To have engineers evaluate special weather conditions and appropriate responses to disasters.

Vincent Orange



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As the former two-term Ward 5 Councilmember, former two-term At-Large Councilmember and Democratic National Committeeman who is an Attorney and CPA, I provide leadership, experience, maturity and proven results. I jumped started economic development, school modernization and recreation renovations in Ward 5, and the City followed. Visit orangeward5.com for more information (watch the former Mayor Williams video for my achievements).

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1. Fund the Police and the root causes of crime (lack of education, housing, jobs and mental health services). 2. Build 1,000 units of housing for minimum wage workers, young people and seniors. 3. Establish The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) as a tuition-free educational institution for DC residents.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

DC Government is a \$20 Billion organization with additional allocations of funding from the Federal Government for 700,000 DC residents. Spending adequate dollars on public safety and police reform is a matter of priority. District government cannot spread itself so thin that it can't take care of the general welfare of its residents. Public safety requires a well maintained police force that is held accountable.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

1. Housing 2. Education 3. Mental health services

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

I wholeheartedly support partnerships with nonprofit organizations. I was the Chief Financial Officer for the nonprofit organization, National Children's Center, Inc. and the President/CEO for the DC Chamber of Commerce.

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

I will support increasing the funding of the Housing Production Trust Fund for affordable housing for our first responders, teachers, young people and long-term residents. I will immediately advocate for 1,000 housing units for minimum wage workers.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The District is short of 500 MPD officers due to the MPD budget cuts in 2020. I support getting our MPD force back to full strength so there can be an adequate response to hate crimes which are rapidly increasing. Local synagogues, other houses of worship and faith -based agencies must be kept safe from the lurking of criminal elements out to destroy our locations of worship.

BDS

I support divestment and sanctions against cruelty & bad humanity policie.

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

I support the economic relationship between DC and Israel. I was a part of the delegation of CEO executives to Israel sponsored by the US Chamber. I also led Mayor Bowser's advance team and the ensuing delegation to Israel.

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

It should be taught in DCPS along with African/African American history.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Call for a DMV summit to address these issues head on. Establish a consensus DMV plan, fund the plan, and implement and excite the plan. Climate crisis is real and must be address on a regional level post haste.

Zachary Parker



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I'm running for Ward 5 Councilmember to change the systems that have failed my family. I've seen first-hand the human impact of a system that leaves our most vulnerable behind. I grew

up watching my oldest brother struggle with a one-size-fits-all school system that did not have the resources to support him, and now see the challenges he faces making ends meet because of it. And I suffered alongside my middle brother through a long and exhaustive battle with a healthcare system that treated him more like a problem than a patient before he ultimately passed away at 36 from kidney failure. I have dedicated my life's work to transforming the systems that failed my brothers and so many like them. These shouldn't be the experiences families have when interacting with

our public institutions. We must emerge from the pandemic without repeating the predictable cycles of violence, trauma, displacement, and corruption. I currently serve as the Ward 5 representative on DC's State Board of Education, making me the only candidate with current budget and policy experience. I was chosen by my board colleagues to be the President in 2021, a reflection of my leadership skills and collaborative approach. My campaign has offered the most detailed and bold platforms on issues like affordable housing, public safety, and wealth generating jobs. My clear and unapologetic vision has earned the endorsement of every labor union and environmental group that has made an endorsement, DC teachers, and many social justice organizations like Jews United for Justice. We have more supporters – as measured by Ward 5 donors – than any other campaign, and we have a robust volunteer corps that has allowed us to knock on the door of every Democratic voter.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My priorities fit within a framework of fighting for holistically healthy communities, which includes environmental, physical, mental, cultural, and economic health. Community Safety and Violence Prevention: We must pursue root-cause solutions that actually work. The root causes of violence are unmet needs and a lack of trauma-informed care, quality schools, recreational outlets, and good-paying jobs. The police should focus on the most violent incidents, while we move police away from duties they are not well suited for, such as responding to mental health crises and traffic enforcement. I will focus on making sure every part of Ward 5 has the core parts of a healthy and safe community: affordable housing, safe streets, mental health supports, and basic amenities (like grocery stores and childcare centers). Education: I will work with colleagues to: 1) Expand critical student supports special education services, literacy interventions, counselors, social workers, nurses, and mental health supports) and out-of-school time funding/programming to bolster student learning (and reduce the numbers of youth put on a fast track through the school-to-prison pipeline; 2) balance accountability of schools with ongoing, true support for all LEAs through a multi-tiered system of support for all our public schools, and 3) ensure we equitably fund our schools, especially those in Wards 5, 7, and 8. Permanently and Deeply Affordable Housing: We must build housing intentionally to meet our specific needs (low-income families, LGBTQ+ youth, seniors, etc) and to balance development across the Wards. We must also expand the HPAP program to increase opportunities for home ownership. I would prioritize government spending on existing, successful, non-market models of community-ownership like the Douglass CLT, social housing, and limited equity co-ops. And we need to replenish the STAY DC program with additional funding for eviction prevention that is easy to access.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Rising violence is shaking our sense of safety. Current approaches are not working, and we must urgently pursue targeted solutions we know can work. The recent rise in violent incidents across the nation is likely linked to a widening wealth gap, pandemic mental health strains, lack of support for families, and continued disinvestment in schools and communities that has left many of our youngest neighbors with unaddressed trauma and unmet needs. As Councilmember, I will work with Council colleagues and the Executive to build a comprehen-

sive public health approach to safety, focusing on three main areas: Prevention: We must address the root causes of crime, which are connected to educational quality, recreational outlets, trauma, and economic opportunity. I also call for expanding violence interrupters and establishing mobile health units and a non-police crisis response team of credible messengers, medics, and trauma professionals. Targeting Violence: I advocate for connecting and coordinating existing programs and agencies, much like the promise of the new Building Blocks program which has been hampered by a lack of follow-through, transparency, and community engagement. Accountability: I support reducing violence by focusing on constructive accountability through restorative justice in schools, funding community mediation, and making a real and lasting investment in violence interruption networks. Those who break the law must be held accountable to the people that they harm. Finally, our desire to do something should not push us to ineffective approaches of the past. Mandatory minimums, police jump outs, hassling teens playing games in the street, or targeting drug enforcement in Black and brown communities do not make us safer. If harsher punishment is our only approach, the cycle of violence will continue indefinitely.

What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?

First, I want to follow a "Black Women Best" approach to economic policy. If we design economic policy in ways that center Black women – who are among the most marginalized workers – then we will build an economy that works for everyone. That includes respecting the dignity of work, including initiative 82 to raise the pay for tipped workers, the Birth-to-Three Act to raise the low pay of early childhood educators, and a domestic workers bill of rights. I also want to support the dreams of women and girls to pursue careers in science, technology, arts, and supporting entrepreneurship programs that focus on people who have been shut out due to lack of access to capital and generational wealth. Our economy will be strongest when parents have the resources, child care, and time to care for their families. Second, we must approach affordable housing with a focus on creating permanently affordable housing for the families with the lowest-incomes. Too often, DC "affordable housing" programs are actually only somewhat affordable, and only for a period of time. In particular, I support expanding support for social housing and our community land trust to create community-owned and permanently affordable housing that empowers communities. This should be the primary focus for developing housing on public land and vacant properties. Third, I support a Green New Deal for DC. We need to decarbonize our economy and stop our toxic reliance on fossil fuels that not only is harming the planet, but it also is harming children and communities in Ward 5 through flooding, air pollution, and disproportionately high levels of asthma. We can add thousands of local jobs and train workers in the work of the future if we take on transforming our infrastructure to be safer, healthier, and more resilient.

What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in DC?

Nonprofits are a critical background of our community and our economy. They meet critical community needs with compassion, create jobs, and serve as partners to operate many key DC programs, such as permanent supportive housing. A robust nonprofit sector is a core component of DC's community and economy. Often the District works to save money by offering only inadequate overhead support ("indirect costs") to nonprofits, hampering the ability of nonprofits

to operate efficiently and to be sustained. I will work to ensure all contracts fully support these nonprofit costs. I will work to minimize barriers to accessing DC contracts, such as unrealistic and too-high insurance requirements that keep nonprofits from applying. And I will work to ensure that licensing and other regulations for nonprofits are streamlined and more equitably designed. I also think we should explore new formats for our grant-making. Instead of smaller grants that are “competitively” bid, we could offer much larger collaborative grants that encourage similar groups to work together on a bigger project that could have much bigger impact across the many communities the organizations serve.

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

Stable housing is the foundation of strong families and healthy communities. Our lack of truly affordable housing is displacing Black and brown residents in Ward 5 and citywide, making DC the most gentrified city. Homeownership is out of reach for most and all our programs to build and offer affordable housing do not meet the needs of the community. As a Councilmember, I will work to ensure that more affordable housing goes to larger families and residents at 30% of Area Median Income - where it is most needed. Developers should be required to include units with 3 or more bedrooms and there should be a minimum percentage of deeply affordable units. We also need to build intentionally to

house groups in special need, like seniors, returning citizens, and LGBTQ+ youth. I will work to make sure the Housing Production Trust Fund is not being used as a slush fund to subsidize developers while asking nothing in return. I also will push for affordable development and city-owned land to prioritize permanently affordable housing models that protect renters and build collective ownership, like community land trusts, social public housing, and limited equity co-ops. I will fight for the Reclaim Rent Control platform to strengthen and extend the protections of rent control to all renters. I will work to expand and simplify Inclusionary Zoning to ensure that it reaches the people who most need affordable housing.

How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Community safety must begin with protecting groups that have been marginalized and targeted for hate. The DC Office of Human Rights is understaffed, leading to long backlogs in responding to hate crimes. I will push for adequate staffing at OHR to address hate crimes. I support the work of DC’s homeland security agency to provide grants for security upgrades to houses of worship, and will work as a Councilmember to ensure every house of worship has access to this resource. As a State Board of Education member, I have built close relationships with congregation leaders in Ward 5, who offer important insight

into community needs, and will maintain those relationships as a Councilmember. I will use these opportunities to ensure that congregations in Ward 5 feel safe and have the support they need to protect the security of their buildings and members.

What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I’ve been focused on local issues and need more education to take a position

What are your positions and proposals if any regarding the the economic relationship between DC and Israel?

N/A

As DCPS updates its curriculum and practices to ensure that all students are supported should Jewish students and Jewish history be taken into account and if so how?

I believe that our schools do best when they reflect the richness of our community. Students will be most engaged when they see their life and their community reflected in the school curriculum. I also think we need to be more thoughtful about scheduling the DCPS calendar with that year’s Jewish calendar in mind. As a DC Councilmember, I will work with parents to define what an inclusive education looks like, and share that vision with the

Mayor and DCPS Chancellor. That must include rich history and culture curricula, including Jewish history and in particular the history of the DC Jewish community.

The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis and increasing costs of rising water levels flooding and destructive weather events. How do you plan to address these issues?

Our environmental policies must acknowledge that climate change is directly harming Ward 5 residents. Flooding and heat islands are the everyday lived reality of so many neighbors in Ward 5. We are the hottest Ward in the city with the least amount of trees. We need to push for trees on every block and we should incentivize fruit trees so that more Ward 5 children could be exposed to the health and wellness opportunities that can come from living in a real relationship with the land. We need to decarbonize our economy and stop our toxic reliance on fossil fuels that not only is harming the planet, but it also is harming children and communities in Ward 5 through flooding, air pollution, and disproportionately high levels of asthma. We can add thousands of local jobs and train workers in the work of the future if we take on transforming our infrastructure to be safer, healthier, and more resilient.



CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

Brian Schwalb



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

First, qualifications and experience matter. For nearly 30 years, I have been actively practicing law – first at the Department of Justice and then in private practice – fighting and

advocating for people and organizations, inside and outside of courtrooms. The OAG requires a leader who is an experienced, seasoned lawyer, one who has been in the trenches, one who has stood before judges and juries, and one who has earned a reputation for integrity and reliability with the judges and courts and bar. Through years of addressing a broad variety of legal questions for a wide array of clients, I have honed the judgment and discretion necessary to serve as AG. I alone bring those qualifications and depth of experience to this race. Second, leadership matters. The critically important work that the OAG does for the City and DC residents is carried out by a team of talented legal professionals, many of whom could work at any private law firm or company in the country. As a law firm leader, I have extensive experience recruiting, training, retaining, mentoring and promoting legal professionals. And, talented legal professionals respect and want to

work for a leader who has walked in their shoes, who knows the hours of hard work it takes to build and try a case, to stand before a jury, to argue to a court of appeals. I have a track record of law firm leadership, first as Venable’s nationwide Vice Chairman (2012-2016) and then (2016-present) as the partner in charge of our DC office (more than 600 professionals, including over 315 lawyers). I have years of experience managing the resources of a multi-million dollar budget. I am the only candidate who brings that proven leadership experience to this race. Third, independence matters. I’m not a professional politician. I’m a first-time candidate. I am also a Fair Elections candidate. I am not beholden to wealthy donors, organizations or special interest groups. I bring different, new, outside perspectives. I am going to make decisions based on the facts and the law and what is in the best interests of DC residents. I am uniquely able to do that for our City. Finally, I have been endorsed by the Washington Post, our current Attorney General, Karl Racine, and the former Attorney General, Irv Nathan, as well as several other organizations and labor unions.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

In listening to DC voters, and having lived and raised a family here for the past nearly 30 years, I believe the three biggest challenges currently facing our City are (i) public safety and crime; (ii) affordable housing and displacement; and (iii) the widening gap in equity, income and opportunity that, for historical and policy reasons, divides along racial lines. The Attorney General has a responsibility to address these challenges head on with calculated and comprehensive strategies. There are no “quick fixes” or “easy answers” to these challenges – they were not created overnight, nor

will they be solved overnight. As outlined above, my six-point plan to address crime and public safety is a comprehensive, long term plan that will not only enhance public safety but ensure that the District maintains healthy and thriving communities that, in the long run, will be safer and healthier. To safeguard affordable housing, I am committed to protecting and expanding the number of decent, habitable, safe, clean housing units by expanding OAG’s protection of residents from slumlords and the pernicious practice of constructive eviction. We must also encourage investment and development in new housing units, including affordable and deeply affordable units, while ensuring we do not displace Black and brown Washingtonians who have resided here for generations. That can be done through expanded OAG involvement in planning and zoning hearings, and in the drafting and enforcement of contractual agreements and community benefit agreements that require equitable development and the avoidance of displacement. Finally, the OAG, in concrete and everyday ways, can work to narrow the equity, income and opportunity gap by aggressively enforcing DC’s anti-discrimination, fair housing, false claims, fair lending, wage protection, environmental protection and consumer protection statutes.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As Attorney General, it is essential to use the law to make the lives of people who live in the District safer and better. In the juvenile justice field, this requires striking a careful balance between holding children who engage in criminal behavior accountable, providing them with resources proven to facilitate rehabilitation, addressing the needs of victims and harms caused by criminal behavior,

and addressing the root causes of criminal conduct so that, in the long term, we prevent crime from happening, reduce recidivism and ensure that our community becomes safer. This includes (i) addressing the problem of over-policing low-level crime in Black and brown communities (which considerable research has shown to be ineffective at driving down crime rates) while under-policing serious crime, (ii) increasing the use of behavioral health professionals instead of or alongside police officers to respond to individuals in crisis and (iii) ensuring greater transparency of MPD data to promote greater community trust in the police. As Attorney General, I will ensure a prosecutorial culture of integrity, committed to respecting Constitutional rights and the dignity of all human beings – offenders and victims. Under my leadership, the OAG will seek both fairness and accountability in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. I will ensure that prosecutors properly and judiciously use their discretion in making charging decisions; take advantage of diversion programming for young people with minimal rehabilitative needs who commit offenses that do not pose a significant threat to public safety; and, with a simultaneous focus on the interests of victims, offer the option of restorative justice in plea bargains for young people accused of more serious offenses. For substantial cases that are not well-suited for alternative dispositions, we will continue to prosecute and close them swiftly with constitutionally obtained, admissible evidence. We also will ensure that the consequences of any successful prosecution are carefully tailored to the individual respondent. These consequences should account for the reasons the crime was committed, the circumstances under which they were committed, the harm caused and the history and characteristics of the respondent, including whether they have prior offenses, especially violent offenses. And they should include meaningful

rehabilitation services that minimize the likelihood of recidivism and maximize the prospects for redemption.

How will you use the Office of the Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and to promote public safety?

In mid-2019, current Attorney General Karl Racine launched the Civil Rights Section of the Office of the Attorney General in response to ongoing bias, hate and discrimination in the District. AG Racine cited the District's Human Rights Act (HRA) as a powerful tool that gives the OAG jurisdiction to bring lawsuits that challenge discrimination. Under his leadership, the OAG has also advocated for legislation to strengthen antidiscrimination laws and has engaged in educational community outreach so that residents know their rights. As Attorney General, I will continue and expand these initiatives by seeking creative and impactful ways to use the law to address bias-motivated violence, harassment and discrimination against all residents of the District. I will continue to collaborate with State AGs across the country on important issues of civil rights, reproductive rights, voting rights, gun control, anti-competitive practices and the need to stand up against racism and hate, wherever and however they raise their ugly heads, ensuring that D.C. remains a national thought leader on issues critical to our national democracy.

Ryan Jones



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I decided to run for Attorney General in order to give back to the city that has given me so much. More so, we watched disparities grow and hardships intensify during 2020.

We cannot expect experienced people that have caused these issues to fix them. We need new leaders, with new visions to provide new solutions to cure old problems. I will use my skillset that I have honed in courtrooms and conference rooms to advocate zealously for the District and its residents, and to create equal access to justice in our courts and administrative agencies as the chief legal officer. As a result, we will create a blueprint that can be replicated across the Nation for the benefit of many more.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Establish an Equality Taskforce that rewrites, repeals, amends, and revises DC Code and the DC Municipal Regulations to ensure equality is codified (using outside counsel). 2. Expungement/Wills & Trusts Clinics - to create access to justice by protecting residents, giving them a second chance

at getting a job, allowing assets to be protected then passed down (using outside counsel). 3. Expand Public Advocacy to take on bad actors to deter future bad acts while protecting the public interest (using outside counsel).

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

We must hire police officers that are from our DC neighborhoods to ensure civility during interactions with residents. This will allow more police cruisers to be parked on residential streets to give a visible deterrence to potential bad actors. We must also remove the willingness to participate in the criminal element by investing in our youth and communities to create positive options while also removing despair.

How will you use the Office of the Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and to promote public safety?

OAG can bring action under D.C. Code 22-3312.01-.02, and coordinate with the US Attorney to collect evidence to help enforce with certainty the federal crime. We will build up our laws and highlight our effectiveness when litigating and prosecuting (US Attorney) to put bad actors on notice to generally deter these acts from occurring again.

Bruce Spiva



Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I'm the only candidate in this race with the broad public interest litigation and management experience to lead and deliver for the people of DC on issues like housing justice,

consumer protection, antitrust enforcement, public safety and criminal justice reform, and workers' rights. I have also been a leader in the fight for DC Statehood and local autonomy.

After attending public schools throughout elementary and secondary school, I went to Yale College and Harvard Law School, where I served as an editor and officer of the Harvard Law Review with President Barack Obama. I have been a partner at two national law firms, and also founded my own public interest law firm. Immediately before running for office, I was the Managing Partner of the DC Office of Perkins Coie, a firm with over 1200 lawyers and \$1.1 billion in revenues, and a member of its Executive Committee. I've tried numerous cases and argued many appeals in courts in DC and around the country, including arguing a voting rights case in the U.S. Supreme Court last year.

I have never forgotten that I stand on the

shoulders of others, most prominently my mother and late father. They both grew up in the Jim Crow era South and were the first in their families to get a higher education. They went on to a life of service to others. My father graduated from an HBCU in 1954, the year the Brown v. Board of Education decision came down. He inspired me to pursue a career in law. He instilled in me a sense of duty and courage to use the gifts that I'd been given to fight for change.

My wife Anna and her family came to the United States in 1980 after having suffered persecution as Jews in the Soviet Union. For nearly three decades, the District of Columbia has been our home. We have raised our two sons here. I love this City and want to continue to work to make it better, particularly for those who have been left out and left behind. It would be my honor to serve as your next Attorney General.

What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My first priority as Attorney General will be to retain and recruit the best lawyers and professionals. The Attorney General is the leader of the largest public interest law firm in DC of over 700 professionals working on behalf of the people of DC. My extensive management experience has taught me that the most important ongoing job of a leader is recruiting, retaining, supporting and motivating a team of diverse and high-quality professionals.

My overarching commitment will be to listen to and work for all Washingtonians, ensuring that their priorities are mine. This includes an ambitious agenda related to housing justice, criminal justice reform and public safety, and workers' rights and consumer protection.

I would pursue those objectives without compromising the importance of the office's multitude of other functions, including defending the government against suit, helping survivors of domestic violence, antitrust enforcement, improving the functioning of the child support agency, and so much more. I will stand up for the rights of all DC residents and help us emerge from the current public health, economic, and political crises as a better, stronger, and more just city.

Crime is rising around the Country and in DC. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

This is one of the most important issues facing DC residents today. I am not only hearing from folks who are fearful, I'm experiencing it along with the rest of us. I have two young adult sons who I worry about when they are out, particularly at night. I can only imagine the trauma experienced by those who have been victims of violent crime. The fear is real and we can and must do better.

In discussions of crime and criminal justice reform, commentators too often suggest a false choice between reforming the system and public

safety. It's simply not true. Reforming the system will increase public safety.

The AG only has jurisdiction over juvenile crime and some adult misdemeanors. Here are five things we can do now:

- Invest in violence interrupters, while improving the coordination with the Executive Branches.

- Work to eradicate the causes of most violent crime – e.g., economic injustice and under-resourced schools, mental health and substance abuse counseling. The only true solution is to address these underlying inequities and provide holistic services to our children.

- Expand the jurisdiction of the AG's office so that we in the District have jurisdiction over all non-federal offenses

- Hold perpetrators of violent crime – and repeat offenders – accountable, but do so in a way in which restorative justice and wrap-around supports are prioritized. We simply cannot incarcerate our way out of this crisis.

- Get illegal guns off of our streets, by working with neighboring jurisdictions and going after gun and ghost gun manufacturers.

In addition, I will advocate for training and reform to the MPD, and take action against officers who abuse their power.

In the past few years, the FBI, ADL, the Metropolitan Police Department and others have reported a spike in hate crimes generally and antisemitic incidents specifically. Year after year, antisemitic incidents are among the most reported hate crimes nationwide. How will you use the Office of the Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and to promote public safety?

This issue is deeply disturbing and personal to me, as the husband of a Jewish refugee from the former Soviet Union and as the father of two young Black men. The rise of hate crimes against Jewish people, people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and others is appalling.

OAG does not have jurisdiction to criminally prosecute hate crimes, but I will work with the US Attorney's office to ensure that such crimes are fully prosecuted. I will also strongly speak out where that office fails to aggressively pursue hate crimes, as was the case with the Trump administration's failure to prosecute hate crimes against Trans people.

OAG has civil prosecution authority against hate crimes, and I would vigorously use that authority. I would also pursue accountability for, and reformation of, juveniles who commit hate crimes.

I have fought against hate of all kinds in and out of the courtroom my entire life. On the issue of racial justice – and in all things – if you want to know what I will do, look at what I have done. My record on these issues is unmatched in the race for Attorney General.

