

**DC FOR DEMOCRACY**  
**AT-LARGE COUNCIL DEMOCRAT KWAME R. BROWN**  
**2008 DISTRICT ELECTION**

1. I am a native Washingtonian, graduate of the District's public schools who desires to improve the conditions of our neighborhoods. A son of Washingtonians who were heavily involved in civil rights activism and local politics, I learned about the issues facing the District of Columbia at an early age. As a legislator and a parent of two children, I believe that our youth should not have to experience the same inadequacies I faced growing up. After winning the 2004 election, unseating a 14-year incumbent, I sought to restore core Democratic values by making a commitment to keep my promises made to our citizens. With my re-election, I hope to bring projects to completion where residents are the primary benefactors to our city's prosperity.
2. If re-elected, I will continue to focus on revitalizing our neighborhoods while providing greater access to our city resources and services. Education & Vocational Training – I was one of the three members to co-introduced the School Modernization Financing Act, which jumpstarted our city's school reform efforts. With the modernization initiative moving forward, I authored a law that funded the restoration of one of our vocational schools, Phelps High School (now renamed Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy) which will reopen at the start of this school year. With Phelps as our model for restoring vocational education, I hope to continue to expand our training programs to assist adults. My goal is to open a 24-hour adult vocational facility, where our residents can enrich their skills to compete for the employment opportunities that our city has to offer. Neighborhood revitalization- I will continue to bring development projects to completion that will most benefit our communities. Our residents have expressed the need for dining and retail establishments, especially east of the Anacostia River. Reducing crime-I will continue to advocate for additional funding for more police officers in our communities and a comprehensive strategy for reducing gun and domestic violence.
3. Local businesses are critical to the District's economy providing jobs for District residents while improving our quality of life. It is important to have a balanced budget that efficiently uses city resources. I co-introduced the "Small Business Commercial Property Tax Relief Act of 2008" to ease the property tax burden of local businesses. I will continue to fight for the "Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Tax Relief Strategy Act of 2007," which would require a comprehensive tax relief strategy for businesses located in neighborhoods with District Department of Transportation projects underway. I also believe that we should continue to find ways to lessen the income tax and property tax burden on individuals to help make living in the District more affordable and competitive with our neighboring states.

4. In addition to the initiatives previously outlined, I desire to restore the basic resources in our public schools. I will continue to push for music, physical education and arts for all students by introducing legislation to require that all elementary schools implement music, PE and arts programs starting the 2008-2009 school year.
5. Desperate individuals often commit gun violence. While they bear responsibility for the crimes they inflict, as a community, we have a responsibility to prevent this behavior at an early age. Education and jobs are key solutions to reducing violence. We must also continue to have police officers walking the streets. I supported adding 350 officers to the streets but the police are unable to do it on their own. As we improve our education system, we will be better equipped to address social ills such as gun violence.
6. As a co-sponsor of the Healthy DC Act and the Access to Universal Healthcare Act, I will continue to look for ways to expand access to affordable healthcare in our communities.
7. I believe in a woman's right to make her own decisions about her reproductive health. We should provide women with access to the medical resources necessary to make those decisions and encourage them to consult with their families and doctors.
8. Yes, I support legal recognition of marriage between same sex partners.
9. Yes, I will support the regulatory changes necessary to ensure that the District recognizes marriages legally sanctioned in other jurisdictions.
10. This year, I authored the Compliance Unit Establishment Act, which created an independent unit with the office of the city auditor. The Unit will conduct an independent audit of city development projects where public land was involved. Specifically, the audit will consider whether or not the developers of the property lived up to their promises of jobs for DC residents, affordable housing production, local small business participation and environmental standards. I will also continue to work with our District agencies, to help our families maximize their financial resources by learning how to save and build financial stability during troubling economic times. I will continue to advocate for debt counseling services, provided by our local Community Development Corporations, Family Strengthening Collaboratives and nonprofit organizations. I believe that the best way to prevent homelessness will be to educate our families on how to spend and invest their money.
11. Although I am not a presiding board member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, I will work with John Catoe and members of the board to discuss funding methods for increasing customer service and develop monthly

outreach initiatives at identified metro stations to make our services conveniently accessible to riders.

12. Throughout my campaign and my years in office, I have recruited the support from our aspiring leaders, our youth and college students to encourage them to get involved throughout the democratic process. Through voter registration drives, advocating for voting representation in Congress, door-to-door canvassing and citywide outreach events, our young people get hands-on experience of true democracy in action.
  
13. As chair of the Committee on Economic Development, I authored the Compliance Unit Establishment Act of 2008, now law which holds developers to their promises to the community of affordable housing, jobs for DC residents, local business participation and environmental standards. As a member of the of the Council's committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, I co-sponsored the Rent Control Amendment Act of 2006, preventing rent increases of more than 10% on vacant units and limiting increases for elderly or disabled to no more than 5%. If re-elected, I plan to continue to serve as Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and member of the following committees: Finance and Revenue, Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Public Works and the Environment, Workforce Development and Government Operations.