

1) Why are you running for mayor, and if (re) elected, what are the three most important things you intend to accomplish in the near term?

As a lifelong District resident, I am committed to bringing about the change that politicians have promised our residents for decades. I will continue to implement critical school reform, drive to down crime, and ensure that economic development reaches all residents and all neighborhoods. We've made great strides towards these goals over the past three years, and I am committed to building on our progress.

2) What are the three most important issues facing the District of Columbia in the next decade?

I've always said that no matter what improvements we make in District government or in our city, we can't say we've truly moved the District forward unless our schools are part of the progress. As reflected in our nation-outpacing test scores, our new and modernized school facilities, and the growing interest of parents in DCPS, we have moved DC public schools forward at an unprecedented pace since 2007. We'll keep building that momentum.

Increasing public safety is fundamental responsibility of any government, and the District must continue to meet this need by driving crime even lower. Under Chief Lanier's leadership, our reduction in violent crime is outpacing the national average, our homicide rate is at a 30 year low, and we've maintained a homicide closer rate at or above 70 percent each year since 2007. We'll continue to raise the bar, building public trust through increasing officers' presence as partners in community wellbeing.

Finally, we must continue inclusive economic growth that reaches both long-overlooked communities and our downtown. My administration has secured major economic development through the city, from new grocery stores, restaurants, and the St. Elizabeths' campus project East of the River to the new Marriott convention center hotel. We're committed to continuing the pace and reach of economic development.

With continued progress in each of these areas, the nation's Capitol can become a city where residents from all backgrounds have the opportunity to thrive.

3) What are your qualifications to serve as mayor?

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I've shown that I'll make the tough decisions required of an executive. Under my leadership, District government did more with less in difficult times, and successfully balanced the budget without raising taxes on residents. The gains we've seen in the past three and a half years, from rising student test scores to falling crime rates, show that I am a leader who can get results and keep our city moving forward.

4) In the context of the projected budget shortfall, do you believe the current budget discussions fairly balance increases in revenue against spending reductions and fairly allocate the burden of revenue increases? If not, what would you propose?

It is the governments' responsibility to spend within its means. I believe that instead of raising taxes, government work harder to eliminate waste and excess. The proposed budget reflects this belief, by using \$200 million in cuts and an \$85 in new revenue to solve the \$533 million budget gap.

5) The District is suffering significantly higher unemployment than Maryland and Virginia in this recession. Describe your plan for broad-based job recovery.

My administration's plan, which we have already begun to implement, is to create job training opportunities in high-growth industries such as construction, hospitality, and weatherization. Each of these industries continues to strengthen in the District, offering new jobs for which residents can now receive targeted job training.

Over the past year, the District launched several new Adult Career and Technical Education programs leading to certification programs in hospitality management and in construction, carpentry, HVAC, and electrical training, as well as a carpentry program at Phelps High School in coordination with the Carpenters Union's Joint School of Carpentry. This \$2 million CTE initiative will serve up to 200 District residents.

Trainees will receive ideal preparation for employment in on major construction projects such as the Saint Elizabeths ` campus development, which will create 16,000 direct construction jobs, and the Marriott convention center hotel, which will create 2000 permanent jobs when completed.

We have significantly expanded other green jobs training opportunities. We currently train up to 240 residents in green construction trades and transition them to employment. This \$1

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million program and other green jobs training programs the District provides will train adults in weatherization, energy efficiency, and other green construction and maintenance disciplines. We are also launching a new Workforce Intermediary that will focus on employment and training opportunities in two key areas: health care and federal government employment.

6) If (re) elected, what will you do to create and protect affordable housing options for both homebuyers and tenants and alleviate homelessness?

Over past three and a half years, I have acted on the following principles: the District should be a city where families across the economic spectrum can live safely and comfortably, and the homeless should be connected to permanent supportive housing. My administration has built or preserved over 11,000 affordable housing units throughout the city, exceeding the commitment I made in 2007 to building or preserving 10,000. We will invest \$26 million in our Permanent Supportive housing program next fiscal year. The program will house over 230 families and 950 individuals in safe and affordable homes. To support homeless families, over the last two years, we increased capacity in transitional and temporary housing. We added 249 housing units over the last two years.

7) Do you think reform in the D.C. Public Schools is headed in the right direction? Explain your answer.

Yes. Under the leadership of the Chancellor, our students have achieved nation-leading increases on reading and mathematics tests. We've modernized or completely rebuilt schools throughout the District, all of which were long overdue for repairs. The Chancellor has worked closely and effectively with the Washington Teacher's Union to develop a new contract that will make District public school teachers some of the best paid in the country, strengthens evaluation and professional development systems, and improve outcomes for our students. I'll be the first to say that we have a long way to go, but we have made incredible gains over the past three years. I am committed to continuing this progress.

8) What policies do you recommend for reducing crime and increasing public safety in the District of Columbia?

Over the past three and a half years I have worked with Chief Lanier to increase MPD officers' presence in the communities they serve. Officers are

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reaching out and building an unprecedented level of trust with residents. As part of our community policing strategy we initiated a text-tip line for residents to anonymously submit information about crimes. MPD received over 800 text tips in 2009, which is a four-fold increase from 2008.

To increase public safety over the long term, it is our responsibility to reduce recidivism by presenting alternatives to criminal activity. Especially in difficult economic times, we can support youth by providing opportunities for summer employment and recreation. We have expanded and strengthened the Summer Youth Employment Program, registering over 22,000 youth for SYEP 2010. We've also modernized and rebuilt recreation centers throughout the city, where join sports teams and access state-of-the-art fields and equipment.

We're also supporting adults by expanding access to job training and meaningful employment. We've launched new job training programs in construction, hospitality management, and weatherization/energy retrofitting. Each of these industries are growing rapidly in the District, and the training programs will help residents be strong competitors for the new jobs being created. These programs are designed to assist those with barriers to employment, including ex-offenders.

9) What are the three most important steps that need to be taken to revitalize the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority?

First, WMATA should hire a general manager with great leadership skills. Second, the region should establish a structured funding stream to meet WMATA's capital needs. Third, WMATA should encourage and use public feedback in developing a revitalization strategy.

10) If (re) elected, what steps will you take to invigorate the D.C. statehood movement?

This spring, through close collaboration with Congresswoman Norton and our allies on the Hill, we came closer than ever to securing a representative with full voting rights in Congress. My administration is on record as advocating strongly for the passage of this legislation. I am committed to securing full representation for District residents and will continue working closely with our allies on the Hill to create another such opportunity.

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11) Cite an instance in your public career where you have compromised with those with whom you have disagreed in order to achieve a larger goal.

The Nationals Baseball Stadium was completed on time and on budget under my administration, despite reservations I expressed as Councilmember. The stadium is now a valuable venue for residents and visitors to enjoy.

12) The District's election laws do not allow the rights of minorities to be subject to popular vote. Do you nevertheless think the District's new Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Law should be put up for popular vote? Why or why not?

No. I was proud to sign the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Act into law. Achieving marriage equality in the District was a historic step forward for civil rights, and one that I hope other jurisdictions will follow.