

DC for Democracy 2012 DC Council Candidate Questionnaire

Further information about the process, including a schedule for the evening of February 1, will be transmitted as soon as it's available. If you have any questions, please email us at dcfordemocracy@gmail.com. Please also use this address to provide us with the name and contact information for the person you want to designate as contact person for this process.

1. Why are you running for City Council, and if (re)elected, what are the priority areas you intend to concentrate on in the near term?

I am running for Ward 4 City Council because there is a great need for leadership in Ward 4. Communities are pitted against one another for progress and development. There is no plan to help understand decisions that favor one area while little or no decisions for another. I intend to focus on education, statehood rights and smart development.

2. With unemployment, homelessness, and general economic distress at historically high levels, do you favor increasing safety net spending in future budgets? If yes, which programs should be given highest priority?

Homelessness and mental health are partners in the cycle of unemployment. With the ending of the two wars and soldiers coming home, some injured, the social programs will become very important to the well being of economic viability of the city.

3. Do you consider the District's total current budget to be too large, too small, or about right? Please explain.

WDC's budget is always in crisis as is most US cities. I am more worried about the management of the budget than the amount. Also, the federal government should give us our fair share of state money comparable to what other states in the region and states that have as much population as ours. That would go a long way to help stabilize our budget/spending without going into a deficit situation.

4. Last year, income taxes for those earning above \$350,000 were increased from 8.5% to 8.95%, subject to a "sunset" provision after 4 years. With this temporary increase, all taxpayers earning between \$40,000 and \$350,000 remain subject to the 8.5% rate. Do you believe this is fair? If not, what would you propose?

\$40,000 is too low for the 8.5% tax rate. I would raise that to \$100,000 as the minimum income amount. Unless the tax rate is higher for those earning more than \$350,000, I would support

\$100,000 or more.

5. What recently revitalized DC neighborhood would you suggest as the best model for the city as a whole, and why?

DC neighborhoods are ever evolving but Ward 8 has the biggest transformation.

6. If (re)elected, what will you do to create and protect affordable housing for both home-buyers and tenants, and alleviate homelessness?

DC Housing vouchers are not flexible for the different housing costs across the city. I would allow them the flexibility for rent comps to reduce the 30,000 people on the housing waiting list and the saturation in wards 5, 7 & 8 of voucher choice housing.

7. Do you think reform in the DC public schools is headed in the right direction? Explain your answer.

There needs to be a plan with dc schools too! It's as if the council is throwing different things on a wall and seeing what sticks and what doesn't. Education is too important to take any road to get you there.

8. How do you suggest that we repurpose the large number of school properties that have been closed over the past few years? Cite specific schools/communities as examples, if possible.

Other types of schools, charter, private or parochial, should have right of first refusal for school properties. If the facility was built for schools it should be retooled for that purpose.

9. What are the most important steps that need to be taken to reform the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority?

The federal transportation authority needs to input more money for upkeep and upgrades.

10. Do you support funding the DC statehood campaign in the 2013 budget? If so, what amount would you support and for what purposes?

Yes I support a DC statehood campaign. I don't know what amount would be appropriate but a good PR campaign would be a great start!

11. Do you believe that the current DC Council represents the interests of the broad public? If not, what segments of the public are underrepresented?

The citizens are being left behind in deference to business/lobbyist/developers.

12. Do you support the creation of an independent ethics commission with members nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, as provided for in the newly enacted ethics reform legislation? Please explain your position.

No. It would create another layer of gov't that duplicates an agency that is working efficiently.

13. Unlike most states, the District allows entities under contract with or soliciting contracts from the city to contribute to political campaigns. Is this a problem which future legislation should address, and, if so, how? Should DC ban all corporate contributions?

There should be no guarantees to those contractors by contributing to campaigns. Most businesses contribute to all candidates to ensure access. The successful candidate is responsible for revealing businesses plans to their constituencies.

14. Do you support the use of Constituent Service Funds (CSFs)? If so, why? If not, would you be willing to work for their elimination?

Yes I like CSFs but not for re-election campaigns startups.

15. What should DC do to improve its job-training programs?

DC needs to support job certification requirements in school curriculums.