

DC for Democracy Questionnaire
April 3, 2012 Democratic Primary
US Senator (Shadow) - Peter Ross

1. Why are you running for Shadow Senator, and if (re)elected, what are the three most important things you intend to accomplish?

BECAUSE I CARE. I CARE ABOUT WASHINGTON, DC. I HAVE RUN A SUCCESSFUL FURNITURE AND IMPORTING COMPANY. I CARE ABOUT THE CITY. MY WIFE (MARSHA) AND I HAVE RAISED OUR (5) FIVE BOYS AND I CARE BECAUSE THIS CITY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO NOT ONLY BE GREAT BUT GREATER WITH CITIZENS THAT CARE. THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I INTEND TO DO AS SHADOW SENATOR: AGITATE; EDUCATE; AND NEGOTIATE. AGITATING THE COMFORTABLE TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE, UNCOMFORTABLE IN KNOWING THAT A CITY WITH OVER 600,000 CITIZENS HAVE NO TRUE VOTING RIGHTS. EDUCATING OUR RESIDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING RIGHTS TO MAXIMIZE OUR POWER AND NEGOTIATING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO WORK AND LIVE IN OUR CITY -- TO NEGOTIATE WITH A POSITION OF STRENGTH.

2. What are your qualifications to serve as Shadow Senator?

A KEY TO MY SUCCESS AS BOTH A PARENT OF 5 WELL ROUNDED SONS AND A BUSINESSMAN HAS BEEN MY ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE WANTS AND NEEDS OF OTHERS AND TO COMMUNICATE MY DESIRES. I WILL USE THESE SAME ATTRIBUTES TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF OUR FIGHT.

3. If (re)elected, what would you do in the short term to build momentum for the movement for statehood movement?

BUILD CONFIDENCE IN THE STATEHOOD MOVEMENT. TO DO THIS, I WOULD FIRST ALLEVIATE THE CONVICTION THAT ANY AND ALL OF OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS FUNDAMENTALLY MISUNDERSTANDS US. IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH IN GOOD FAITH WHAT IS MOST POIGNANT AND EVERYTHING ELSE BECOMES SYMBOLIC. FOR THE RECORD, IT NOT ONLY IS THE SYMBOLISM WE MUST ADDRESS -- IT IS THE SIMPLE INJUSTICE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE IN HAVING NO REPRESENTATION.

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4. If (re)elected, what would you do to build more active support from DC residents?

ENGAGE AND COMMUNICATE WITH RESIDENTS FROM ALL WALKS, WORK WITHIN THE VARIOUS CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, ANC LEADERSHIP, AND CIVIC ACTIVISTS. MY EXPERIENCE AS A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE FOXHALL COMMUNITY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION SHOWED ME THE STRENGTH THAT OUR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HOLD AND ALSO THEY WILL WORK TOWARD A COMMON GOAL -- IF ASKED.

5. If (re)elected, what would you do to increase awareness among those outside the Washington metro area of the District of Columbia's lack of voting representation? Present your vision for the national campaign for DC rights in the fifty states.

TO INCREASE AWARENESS, I WILL FOCUS ON INNOVATIVE MEASURES BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL POLITICS. I WILL CREATE HYPER-LOCAL CAMPAIGNS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHERE I PLAN TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY WITH INDIVIDUALS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. MY VISION FOR A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN IS TO:DEFINE TO OTHERS ACROSS THIS NATION THE PLIGHT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS RESIDENTS OUR FIGHT FOR STATEHOOD. THIS MAY HAVE TO BE DONE THROUGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.DISCOVER WHERE OUR ENERGY IS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.DEVELOP METHODS TO COMMUNICATE AND TOUCH FOLKS IN ALL 50 STATES AND DEPLOY THEM IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO MAKE OUR ARGUMENT FOR STATEHOOD.

MOST IMPORTANTLY I WILL WORK WITH OUR CITY LEADERSHIP TO PREPARE A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WILL EVALUATE, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGY TO EMBRACE AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE AMERICAN POPULATION.