

## Ernest Johnson answers to DC4D questionnaire

1. Given the strong economic and population growth in recent years, we can all agree that this city is now a hot place to live and work. However, this growth has not benefited many people, especially lower income and unemployed DC residents. How would you leverage taxpayer funds for economic development in ways that would benefit the neediest DC residents?

**I will use my constituent services office to launch DC Pride a volunteer to work program for Ward One resident age 18-75 years old. This program will be headquartered in the Reeves Center and funded by a 2% gross receipts tax on Ward One business making \$250,000 gross annual income and federal grants. This will be the starting point for rebuilding the middle class.**

2. Seattle has enacted a minimum wage of \$15.00. San Francisco will vote on a ballot initiative in November of \$15.00 an hour for all workers. The mayor of Los Angeles has proposed a minimum wage of \$13.25, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel supports a \$13.00 minimum wage for Chicago. Should DC set its sights higher? If so, to what level and in what time frame? Should tipped workers get an increase as well? If so, to what level?

**I support \$15.00 minimum wage.**

3. In 2014, the DC Council enacted significant changes in tax law, many of which were recommended by the Tax Revision Commission. What do you think of these changes? What further changes would you propose, if any?

**I have not read the Tax Revision Commission recommendations or those adopted by the DC Council. I would need to read the recommendations and action by the Council before I could comment on those changes. I do know the Tax Commission was headed by former Mayor Anthony Williams and worked very hard to produce their recommendation and because of that I would give serious consideration to their work.**

4. Do you think that public financing of elections is an effective way to reduce the influence of large contributors on legislation? If yes, what model do you favor? If no, what alternative do you recommend?

**I do not think public financing will reduce influence of large contributors but, will make elections more competitive.**

5. The electoral system in DC allows candidates to be elected to office with a plurality, not a majority, of votes. Do you support any type of runoff system of voting? If yes, what mechanism do you favor? If not, why not?

**I would not change our electoral process. I would support returning the primary to September and perhaps expanding the legislative body in the future.**

6. How do you propose we better use development projects on public land for affordable housing, particularly housing for low-income residents?

**70,000 residents on a waiting list for over 20-years makes affordable housing a priority. In Ward One Park Morton, Old Hebrew Home, Paul Robeson school and Macmillan Reservoir must be a major part of our affordable housing plan.**

7. Are our rent control laws adequate? If not, what can be done to reduce the burden on tenants?

**I support Jim Graham's legislation to remove 2% surplus from landlords current rent increase.**

8. The percentage of children in traditional public schools has declined dramatically in DC and is now, at 56%, the third lowest in the nation. Should we be concerned about this trend? If so, what should be done to halt or reverse it? If not, what changes would you propose to adapt to the trend?

**I will hold the first ever Ward One Education Summit of Parents, Teachers, Students and Stakeholders.**

9. The Executive's zoning, planning and historic preservation functions report through the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). In your view, does this structure work well for the city? If not, how would you alter it?

**I would meet with the Mayor, Chairperson of the Government Operation Committee, a few former Deputy Mayor's and some developer's before making any changes to this structure.**