



2015 Ward 4 Special Election Questionnaire

1. PUBLIC FINANCING

A number of jurisdictions provide public financing to political campaigns who meet certain requirements. The campaign must receive small donations (as low as \$5 per person) from a specified minimum number of individuals. In addition, candidates must agree to certain conditions (for example, limits on how much their campaign may spend, limits on how much any individual may donate, and a ban on contributions from corporations and political action committees).

As a Councilmember would you vote to establish such a system in DC? Why or why not?

I like the idea of public financing to political campaigns and would be open to establishing a system in WDC.

2. BANNING PAY TO PLAY

In the current Council period, Chairman Mendelson has introduced the *Contractor Pay-to-Play Elimination Amendment Act of 2015*. Instead of using the conventional approach of banning contractors from donating to campaigns, the bill would ban donors from receiving government contracts.

2a) As a Councilmember, will you vote in favor of this legislation? *I am open to discussing campaign donations from WDC contractors*

2b) What have you done in the past to limit the influence of monied interests in DC government? *As an ANC/resident, I have voted for those candidates that agree with my position on campaign donations.*

3. STATEHOOD

When it comes to statehood, politicians and public officials are often long on rhetoric and nearly absent when it comes to doing the work required.

What is the most significant action you have taken to promote the cause of statehood, and how do you plan to advance the cause as Councilmember?

I support those efforts that move the cause forward. I have rallied in favor of DC Statehood, delivered the message as I travel around the US



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4. HOUSING

Mayor Bowser has committed to adding \$100 million to the Housing Production Trust Fund in this year's budget.

4a) Do you stand with the Mayor in her commitment? *Yes*

4b) Are there any circumstances under which you would vote for a budget that does *not* include the additional \$100 million? If so, please be specific.

Yes if the Housing Production Trust Fund was budgeted for something other than promised for affordable, low income, homeless and workforce housing; or if budgeted less than the \$100 million.

5. POLICE

The DCFerguson movement was formed to oppose invasive police tactics, particularly jumpouts, targeted to communities of color. DCFerguson demands that the DC Council pass a resolution taking a stand against the use of jumpout squads. See the DCFerguson petition for details: <https://www.change.org/p/councilmember-phil-mendelson-take-a-stand-against-jump-out-squads-in-washington-d-c>

5a) Have you signed the petition linked above? If not, please explain.

I oppose invasive police tactics especially jumpouts everywhere.

5b) Would you support the Council holding a public roundtable on jumpouts? *Definitely*

6. JOBS

What have you done specifically to help create good jobs with good benefits for Ward 4 residents? If elected, will you introduce/co-sponsor legislation such as [San Francisco's "Retail Workers Bill of Rights"](#) to give workers greater control over their schedules and promote worker education and training?

I support the San Francisco Retail legislation. Part time workers should have right of first refusal for full time hours and schedules.



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7. INCOME INEQUALITY

While income inequality is far more than just a local issue, Washington has been ranked fourth highest among major cities in the country in the size of the income gap between upper and lower income residents. Do you think this broad income disparity is an issue the Council can and should address? If so, why, and what specific proposals/steps do you think should be considered? If not, why?

Income inequality in WDC should be addressed by raising the minimum wage, offer education and trade options, affordable housing that is WDC specific for AMI ranges.

8. DISPLACEMENT

What specific strategies would you endorse as a Councilmember to prevent displacement of residents and businesses in Ward 4 neighborhoods (like 16th Street Heights and Petworth) that are presently experiencing development pressure?

More community engagement in development processes