



2015 Ward 8 Special Election Questionnaire
Eugene Kinlow

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?

Yes, I support clean elections and public financing that limits campaign spending. Public financing will help to level the playing field and hopefully diminish the incumbent advantage, so that anyone who is qualified and committed to public service has an opportunity to run for office.

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 do believe that there should be limits on the number of contracts a contractor can receive after they have made donations to political campaigns.

2b) What have you done in the past to limit the influence of monied interests in DC government? I've always spoken truth to power.

I led a coalition across Ward 8 to stop a private prison from being built in the Ward that was supported by K street lobbyists and powerful law firms. I also was a part of group that fought back against a proposed plan to build a trash transfer station in Ward 8 at a time when we didn't even have a grocery store.

3. STATEHOOD



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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 have long been an advocate for full representation for DC. For 8 years I served as the Public Affairs Director for DC Vote where I fought for voting rights statehood and voting rights for DC residents. I lead the team that help execute the Budget Autonomy Initiative. Additionally, helped grow the organization from 22 organizations to a coalition of more than 100 local, regional and national organizations in favor of full democracy for DC residents.

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?

The Trust Fund needs to be fully and consistently funded to allow for better planning and we should make this program less dependent on the volume of sales in DC's real estate market.

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.

No.



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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.

Yes, I have signed the petition.

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

Yes, part of the issue has been the lack of understanding, dialogue, and trust between members of the community and police forces. We must find a way to allow for better communication and improve community policing.

6. JOBS

What have you done specifically to help create good jobs with good benefits for Ward 8 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?

As a founding member of DC for Democracy my energies have been primarily focused on being an advocate on behalf of the working class and fighting to improve quality of life for those within the Ward. This was true as a member of the Workers Rights Board where it was my task to safeguard jobs and be an advocate for workers rights. I have fought to prevent negative projects in the Ward such as a trash transfer station and a private prison that did not add value to our community. Yes, I support creating a Bill of Rights that promotes full time work and gives workers access to more hours, encourages standardized and advance schedules, makes a substantial effort to curtail on-call scheduling that are often times abusive. In addition, we need a bill that fosters an environment where equal treatment for part-time workers is standard, and where job security and worker retention are prioritized.



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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?

As a Councilmember I believe income inequality in the District is exceedingly worrisome and represents a significant challenge for our low income families. For these families that fall into the low and moderate income sphere putting food on the table, paying for education related expenses, and health care coverage are extreme burdens. We must work to ensure affordable housing is accessible and that individuals can take full advantage of tax breaks to help them get by.

8. DISPLACEMENT

Sanford Capital is seeking permission to demolish properties by the Congress Heights Metro and replace them with luxury apartments. The tenants have organized the Alabama Avenue/13th Street Tenants Coalition to buy the properties and form a housing cooperative. What have you done to date to help the tenants, and how will you help them if elected Councilmember?

I strongly support development without displacement and believe there are several alternatives to prevent Ward 8 residents being pushed out of their communities. The most important of these alternatives is ensuring renters are informed about their TOPA rights so that they have the choice to purchase their building if they desire. However, it is not important enough that these residents be offered TOPA alone, we need to give them the right tools that will guarantee their success as owners. Expanding programs like the Washington Area Community Investment Fund would help guarantee this is a viable option for Ward 8 residents. As development moves into the ward we need to make sure Ward 8 residents are able to stay and benefit from that development. We need housing that is not only affordable, but accessible to our residents. Creating workforce housing would allow for our service workers, public sector employees, teachers, and retail workers to be located in relative proximity to their places of employment.