



2015 Ward 8 Special Election Questionnaire
Sandra Seegars

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?

As a person who believes in fairness and honesty, I would support a system that limits contributions and spending. I voted yes on the referendum that limited contributions to \$400.00, but the same City Council members who want voting rights vetoed the citizens' vote. For the sake of this question, I am sure DC for Democracy is not going to endorse a candidate who raised an excessive amount of money, which seems to be a method of buying an election.

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 would support this bill.

2b) What have you done in the past to limit the influence of monied interests in DC government?

In Ward 8, this problem has not been widespread, however, I did vote yes on the \$400.00 campaign contribution limit.

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 have been involved in a few protests. I believe the performance of our elected officials have a lot to do with becoming a state. If the elected officials continue to over spend, are criminals,



2015 Ward 8 Special Election Questionnaire

evasive, violate the Sunshine Law, and avoid full disclosure we will never be a state. As Councilmember, I will follow all of the laws that show we are serious and professional, that we can be self sufficient in every way possible, set examples of open government with full disclosure. The most propelling step I would promote is to follow the "Tennessee Plan". Draft a state constitution, and send two senators and a representative to Congress. Alaska was successful in following this doctrine.

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. This will enable those who are trying to become home owners.

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.

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.

No, I have not signed this petition. I do not plan to sign it because I believe this statement is not 100% accurate. I live in Ward 8 and I have seen plain clothes police gather as they plan to make an arrest. I have seen the plain clothes police in action and the ones I have witnessed did not kill anyone or abuse their authority. I have called the police on groups of people when I saw them committing a crime. I did not want the marked cars with sirens to respond because the activity would stop temporarily and start back after they leave. In these cases, I prefer the plain clothes officers in unmarked cars to respond.

What I would sign is a petition to make it easier by changing the guidelines to find police officers guilty of abuse of authority, assault, wrongful death, harassment, intimidation, etc., thereby, making it easier to remove unscrupulous officers from the force.

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

Yes, I would support such a hearing. I would demand, or subpoena if necessary, police video tapes of these activities. I would request citizens to bring in video tapes as well, to show any

unscrupulous actions by the police. I would demand that the officer in these videos are brought to justice.

6. JOBS



2015 Ward 8 Special Election Questionnaire
Sandra Seegars

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?

I have not done anything to create jobs in Ward 8. I have been able to get residents hired on jobs. I have created the "First Pay Day Loan" program. I send out a job vacancy list. If a person gets a job from this list, I would loan them money for transportation to get to and from work until they get their first pay day. They pay the money back so it can be paid forward to the next recipient. As Councilmember, I will expand this program. I will jump start a program by setting aside 10% of my salary to assist serious minded want to be entrepreneurs that have a plan to get started. If it is successful, I would governmentally fund such a program.

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?

I believe income inequality is an issue the Council addresses and they have done so by increasing the minimum wage. Income can be based on the tenure of the employee, and the job title. I believe the jobs that an uneducated person can obtain is never going to equal to the ones an educated person can obtain. That is why adults, rich and poor, stress the importance of education. Job experience also heightens the salary.

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?

First of all, the heading for this question is inaccurate. No one at 13th and Alabama Ave are being displaced. HUD's Definition
Who is a Displaced Person?

Generally, a displaced person under the Uniform Act (URA) is an individual, family, partnership, association, corporation, or organization, which moves from their home, business, or farm, or moves their personal property, as a direct result of acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation for a

federally funded project. Displaced persons are eligible for relocation assistance under the URA.



2015 Ward 8 Special Election Questionnaire

Who is Not Displaced?

Generally, persons not displaced are not eligible for relocation assistance under the URA. Examples of persons not displaced include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Persons displaced ***temporarily*** from their dwelling for less than 12 months while it is being rehabilitated

I believe democracy is not trying to confiscate someone's property. I do believe that tenants should be treated fairly, but not to the extent that they can confiscate an owner's property just because they are renters. I have been involved in this case. My organization is one of the organizations in the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). To me, democracy does not mean a person has the right to take over someone else's property. Whatever law the tenants or your organization may or may not be following, I believe is un-equitable. I believe, just because a person lives in a property, does not give them rights to buy it if it is not for sale. I know for a fact that the residents, at least the ones in good standing, have been offered the right to move temporarily into some of the other properties, and move back at the same rent, with no more than 4% increase, instead of 10%. I helped to get this provision in the CBA.

Your opening statement is misleading, "Sanford Capital is seeking permission to demolish properties by the Congress Heights Metro and replace them with luxury apartments." Let me correct this, "Sanford Capital is seeking a variance at Zoning to demolish the property that they own and replace them with luxury apartments. The tenants have been offered to move out to their other properties and return at the same rent with no more than 4% rent increase instead of 10%."

If this property was not privately owned, I would agree with you. What example are you setting for future property owners? I think this is going to discourage others from building in Ward 8. You should be using this tactic in Barry Farms, where the government owns the property. The tenants at 13th and Alabama Ave. are not being displaced.

When elected, I will help the tenants to move temporarily into decent housing and return per the agreement in the CBA. Thereto, if you are really for democracy, you are in agreement with my statement.