



2015 Ward 4 Special Election Questionnaire
Acqunetta Anderson

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? Yes. Why or why not?

I support the small donations limits in addition to restricting campaign ads on the television and radio. We must not allow the pay to play scheme as part of our democracy. Public offices should not be for sale to the corporations and political action committees. The positive consequence of these rules are that a candidate can spend almost no money and still be granted equal access and time on all the major television and radio outlets. This enables the emergence of small candidates and can rejuvenate democracy.

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? Yes.

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

Polls consistently show that a large majority of voters are wary of the amount of money flooding into politics and its distorting influence on politics. This is currently occurring in the Ward 4 and 8 Council Campaigns. The media are not focusing on the best candidate as the front runners but the big money candidates.

The problem is that our government is now increasingly responsive to special interests and not the public interest. This is why many people are frustrated and disappointed with our political system. Instead of a democracy where all citizens have an equal say in the governing process, some organizations and individuals have a disproportionate and unfair influence over what the government does. The result is that the power and greed of the few too often win out over the citizen's needs. While serving in my second term as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I pledged not to allow the influence of monied interest in my vote regarding the selection of the



2015 Ward 4 Special Election Questionnaire

former Walter Reed Medical Center developer. My vote was strictly in the best interest of the citizens as it relates to jobs, small businesses, affordable housing for low income, seniors, veterans and persons with disabilities. I have testified before the DC Council in support of affordable housing, and testified against the Exelon/Pepco merger. When I ran as a candidate for the ANC Commissioner and the National Democratic Committee Woman, I did not accept any corporations or PAC donations.

I also marched with women for equal pay and paid leave. As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner I advocate and support equal pay for women.

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? As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I have lobbied Members of the House and the Senate regarding statehood for the District. I have attended press conferences supporting Statehood for the District in addition to contacting elected officials in other states seeking support of statehood and to educate citizens across America about the District's—taxation without representation. As the Ward 4 councilmember, I will continue to lobby the Senate and the Congress in addition to lobbying state and city elected officials to support DC Statehood and to introduce legislation in their states to support the disenfranchised citizens in the District in their efforts to become a state.

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, I stand with Mayor Bowser's commitment to add \$100 million to the Housing Production Trust Fund. But in keeping up with the number of seniors, low income residence and the retiring baby boomers, I will introduce legislation requiring that we build 40,000 affordable housing units over the next decade to stay ahead of the curve.

4b) Are there any circumstances under which you would vote for a budget that does *not* include the additional \$100 million? No. If so, please be specific.

5. POLICE



2015 Ward 4 Special Election Questionnaire
Acqunetta Anderson

The DC Ferguson movement was formed to oppose invasive police tactics, particularly jump outs, targeted to communities of color. DC Ferguson demands that the DC Council pass a resolution taking a stand against the use of jump out squads. See the DC Ferguson 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? Yes. If not, please explain.

5b) Would you support the Council holding a public roundtable on jump outs? Yes, it is important that the DC Council hold a public roundtable on jump-outs and pass a resolution taking a stand against the use of "Jump-Out" squads.

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? Yes, as the Ward 4 Council member, I will introduce/co-sponsor legislation such as the San Francisco's Retail Workers Bill of Rights to give workers greater control over their schedules. I also will support legislation that promotes worker education and training including apprentice training programs. I advocated against the building of Walmart in Ward 4 and across the city because of their employment practices, low wages and benefits. As the Ward 4 council member, I push to enforce the District laws hiring laws.

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? Yes. If so, why, and what specific proposals/steps do you think should be considered? If not, why? If we fail to focus on, and tackle, the problems of income inequality in our city it will impact who we are as a community. Young adults are increasingly likely to have low incomes and seniors, As a councilmember I will focus on programs that provide broad education and training for the workforce for jobs to meet the growing demand for skilled workers for a sustainable community. We need to double the number of college/trade graduates and we need to provide the scholarship funds to do it. I will continue to promote equal pay for equal work, reducing the disparity between male and female workers. In addition to introducing/co-sponsor legislation to rework our tax system so that it is fair and provides more opportunity for the middle class.

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



2015 Ward 4 Special Election Questionnaire

are presently experiencing development pressure? Low-income families and individuals unable to secure decent affordable, and suitable housing face difficult choices. As the Ward 4 council member, I will support appropriate legislation for homeowners, tenants in private-market properties, and tenants in subsidized or affordability-controlled properties. In addition to introducing legislation to establish strict displacement laws to provide that they are triggered by private displacements and ensure adequate levels of displacement assistance. And support legislation that facilitate retention of projects subject to expiring use restrictions as permanent or long-term affordable housing and business leases.