

1. Affordable Housing: Estimates show nearly half of all D.C. renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent. What resources, if any, will you implement to create more affordable housing options in the District?

The Housing Production Trust Fund is legally required to direct half its money toward the lowest-income residents, and that requirement has not always been honored. I will press to hold that line, push to raise the affordable housing requirement on District-owned land from 30% to 35%, and work to fix the Inclusionary Zoning process so affordable units stop sitting empty while families sit on waitlists. Building more housing across all eight wards, including converting vacant office buildings into homes people can actually afford, is how we bring costs down over time.

2. Safe Housing: What policies will you advocate for to provide safe housing to people across D.C., including those living in poor rental conditions?

When I was a senior policy analyst at the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, I testified before the Council about conditions in DC's public housing, where over 90% of residents are Black and the DC Housing Authority's own leadership described significant portions of its portfolio as potentially uninhabitable. The city's immediate repair needs at that time were \$405 million, and the federal government has chronically underfunded public housing for decades. That means the District has to step up with local dollars, hold DCHA accountable for actually spending them, and impose real penalties on any landlord, public or private, who fails to maintain livable conditions.

3. Shelter Capacity: D.C.'s low-barrier shelters are often at high capacity. Do you think there are enough shelter beds and locations, including spaces for women, men, youth, and LGBTQ+ individuals? If not, what new facilities (low-barrier, non-congregate, etc.) would you advocate for?

No, there are not enough shelter beds, and what exists is unevenly distributed across the city. Every facility should be safe, clean, and designed to help people stabilize, with wraparound services like mental health support, childcare, and workforce development on-site. I also support non-congregate options, including converting vacant office buildings into shelter space, spread across all eight wards so no single neighborhood carries the full weight.

4. Encampment Closures: D.C. officials recently said the city "shouldn't have encampments" and has been closing encampments regularly for the last several years. What is your stance on the city's encampment engagement policy, and should the city be closing more or fewer encampments? What resources should people be offered during encampment closures?

Closing an encampment without a genuine placement for every person there is not a solution; it is displacement. People should be offered something specific: a real shelter or housing option, connection to wraparound services, and enough time to make a decision rather than being swept out in an hour. The city should also track where people end up after closures, because if we don't know, the policy is not actually reducing homelessness.

5. Vouchers: This year, the mayor's budget proposal does not include any new housing vouchers for people experiencing homelessness. How would you advocate to respond to homelessness given the city's limited resources?

The mayor's decision to include no new housing vouchers in this year's budget is the wrong call. I have been clear with the administration that I do not want to see the budget balanced on the backs of the people who can least afford it. Vouchers are one of the most direct tools we have for moving people from homelessness into stable housing, and I will push for accountability on utilization too, because a voucher someone can't use because no landlord will accept it is not actually a solution.

6. Stakeholder Input: How have you involved people with lived experience of homelessness in your policy-making, and how will you in the future?

My views on housing and homelessness were shaped long before I joined the Council. I have stood alongside residents experiencing homelessness and returning citizens in coalitions, and marched in the People for Fairness Coalition's annual vigil, which memorializes DC residents who died while experiencing homelessness that year. Returning citizens are among the most housing-insecure people in DC, because a conviction record can disqualify someone from public housing and make it nearly impossible to find a private landlord willing to rent to them. Going forward, I will keep a real and open line to organizations doing this work, show up where these conversations are already happening, and be willing to revisit my positions when people who know from the inside tell me something isn't working.