

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?

Nearly half of all D.C. renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent, and Washington has the resources to do better. As Mayor, I will bring our affordable housing finance programs into compliance with the law, streamline permitting, and expand use of the District Opportunity to Purchase Act for land banking and affordable housing preservation. The goal is to preserve every affordable unit at risk of being lost while expanding supply by building new ones.

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?

Every Washingtonian deserves a safe place to live. This requires modern building standards and a commitment to ensuring property owners meet those standards, follow the law and that there are real consequences for owners that do not mitigate code violations. The more powerful solution is expanding housing supply so tenants have real options and landlords have to compete for them. I have a long track record of delivering real protections for tenants, including guaranteed legal representation in housing court matters, and as Mayor I will pair those protections with the kind of supply growth that gives tenants actual leverage.

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?

The District does not have enough shelter beds or locations to adequately serve all populations, and I will act to change that. I will shift away from large congregate shelter models toward smaller, trauma-informed, non-congregate facilities that provide privacy and dignity. This includes spaces specifically suited for families, women, youth, and LGBTQ+ individuals. I will also expand permanent supportive housing and one-stop service centers so residents can access housing assistance and care without navigating disconnected systems.

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 would your encampment policy be? Should the city be closing more or fewer encampments? What resources should people be offered during encampment closures?

My encampment policy will be grounded in dignity, legal compliance, and a Housing First commitment. The current administration has violated DC law by failing to provide timely and proper notice before closures and has cleared encampments without prioritizing housing placement. As Mayor, I will require that every closure is preceded by meaningful outreach and followed by real housing and service options, including shelter referrals, behavioral health connections, and permanent housing pathways.

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

limited resources?

Limiting resources does not reduce the need for housing assistance, and my administration will be strategic about maximizing every available dollar. I will protect Emergency Rental Assistance funding and expand the Local Rent Supplement Program. I will also reform Rapid Re-Housing to remove arbitrary time limits so families are not removed from assistance before they can sustain housing independently. Keeping people housed costs far less than managing the downstream consequences of displacement across Medicaid, hospitals, and the criminal justice system.

6. DCHA: With Keith Pettigrew leaving the District of Columbia Housing Authority, what do you think are the qualities of an effective leader for the agency? What are some objectives you'd want a prospective appointee to achieve?

DCHA's next leader must have the operational discipline, public accountability, and genuine commitment to residents that the agency has long needed. An effective appointee will have a demonstrated record managing large public agencies and a clear plan to execute capital repairs and reduce backlogs. My objectives for that leader would include accelerating the repair of distressed public housing units, improving transparency through a public performance dashboard, and rebuilding trust with residents who have been failed by years of institutional dysfunction. Public sector leaders, with the privilege and responsibility of providing housing to DC residents must be held to the same standards as all landlords - addressing code violations as well as health and safety concerns.

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

People with lived experience of homelessness are a primary resource in shaping effective policy, and my administration will treat them accordingly. I have supported expanding the role of advisory bodies like the DC Commission on Poverty to bring lived-experience insight into policymaking. As Mayor, I will go further by giving residents who have experienced homelessness genuine decision-making authority over how homelessness services are designed and funded, moving well beyond consultative input to real power over program structure and resource allocation.