

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?

DC's rent burden is a crisis. When half of our renters are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, families are one car repair or medical bill away from losing their residence. The answer has to be a two-track strategy: build much more housing of all types, and directly subsidize the residents whose incomes will never meet market rents.

On the supply side, I will push to legalize middle housing in every ward, expand alley housing and ADUs, eliminate parking mandates that drive up costs, and end the bad-faith appeals that tie up projects for years. On the subsidy side, the District cannot meaningfully house residents at 0 to 30 percent of MFI without direct support, which means restoring and growing the Local Rent Supplement Program, fully utilizing the Housing Production Trust Fund for the deepest affordability tiers, and protecting permanent supportive housing vouchers in every budget cycle.

I will also press the Council and the Mayor to actually deliver on the 2050 commitment of 15 percent affordable housing in every planning area, including the wards that have historically resisted it. Inclusionary Zoning should be strengthened, and city-owned land in higher-cost wards should be prioritized for deeply affordable housing.

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?

No DC resident should have to choose between paying rent and living somewhere safe. Through my time as Chief of Staff at the Office of the Attorney General for the District, I saw how the worst landlords in this city exploit tenants who have nowhere else to go, with mold, broken heat, pest infestations, lead, and persistent housing code violations that the District has the authority to address but too often does not.

I will advocate for stronger and faster code enforcement with real penalties for chronic violators and a public, searchable record of which landlords are repeat offenders. The Office of the Tenant Advocate needs to be properly resourced so renters in unsafe conditions can actually get help.

I will also push the Council to pair anti-displacement tools with funding for tenant education and financing so renters can actually use the rights they have. Safe housing is not a luxury feature of an apartment. It is the baseline obligation of being a landlord in the District, and the city has every tool it needs to enforce it.

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, the District does not have enough shelter capacity, and the gaps are sharpest for the populations who are already most vulnerable. As Major Gifts Officer at Covenant House Greater Washington, I see every day what it looks like when there are not enough safe beds for homeless youth, particularly LGBTQ+ youth, who face higher rates of homelessness and are often unsafe in adult congregate settings. Women, including women with children, frequently cycle in and out of overcapacity shelters. Men's low-barrier shelters routinely turn people away on the coldest nights.

I support expanding capacity in the directions where the evidence is strongest. That means more youth-specific and LGBTQ+ affirming beds, more non-congregate options like the kind of small-scale, dignified settings that allow people to actually stabilize, and shelter capacity distributed across the city rather than concentrated in a handful of wards. Non-congregate shelter is not a luxury. It is what reduces violence, illness, and the trauma that keeps people from accepting a bed in the first place.

Unfortunately, at a time when we need even more shelter capacity, the Mayor's budget reduces funding to the nonprofit organizations providing these services, and I have been personally involved in advocacy to the Council to restore this funding.

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?

Encampments are not safe or healthy for the people living in them or for surrounding communities, and the city cannot accept a permanent system where residents are forced to survive in tents. But we also have to recognize that simply clearing encampments without a real plan does not solve homelessness; it often just pushes people into greater instability.

I support a balanced approach: the District should continue addressing encampments, but it must do so safely, respectfully, and with a focus on helping people move indoors permanently. Outreach should happen well before any closure, led by trusted providers who can build relationships and connect residents to services.

Before a closure, every resident should receive meaningful offers of shelter or housing that fit their needs, including non-congregate options when appropriate, transportation assistance, storage for belongings, help replacing IDs and documents, and access to behavioral health and substance use treatment. The city must also protect personal property and ensure engagements are conducted humanely and with dignity.

Ultimately, the long-term solution is not repeated encampment closures. It is creating significantly more affordable housing, supportive housing, and rental assistance so fewer people end up outside in the first place.

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?

I do not support the Mayor's choice to fund zero new permanent supportive housing vouchers in FY27. These vouchers are among the most effective tools we have for ending chronic homelessness, and every voucher that goes unfunded is a person who stays on the street, in shelter, or in a hospital bed at far greater cost to the District.

As a Councilmember, I will fight to make permanent supportive housing, the Local Rent Supplement Program, and ERAP baseline commitments rather than line items that get cut first when the budget tightens. The cost of letting people remain unhoused, in human and in fiscal terms, is far higher than the cost of housing them.

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

In my current role at Covenant House Greater Washington, I work alongside young people with lived experience of homelessness every day. Our programs are built around their input, including the 90-day structured program and longer-term transitional housing that work because they reflect what young people actually need to stabilize, not what we assume from the outside. That experience has shaped my campaign's housing and homelessness platform directly.

On the Council, I will carry this with me every step of the way. I will hold regular listening sessions with residents who have experienced homelessness, partner with organizations like the People for Fairness Coalition and The Way Home Campaign that center lived experience in their advocacy, and ensure that any task force, working group, or oversight hearing on homelessness includes people who have lived through the system, with compensation, whenever possible, for their time and expertise.

I will also use Council oversight to require that the Department of Human Services and the Interagency Council on Homelessness demonstrate, with evidence, how the input of people with lived experience has shaped their programs, budgets, and engagement policies