

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?

As a pharmacist I have learned you cannot treat a symptom and ignore the system making people sick. When nearly half of DC renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent, that is not a market outcome. That is a system failure.

As an ANC Commissioner in Ward 8, I worked with seniors whose building was targeted by an alleged slumlord. Using their tenant purchase rights, we organized, slowed the sale, and built a coalition that led then-Attorney General Karl Racine to remove Sanford Capital and replace them with a nonprofit. Those seniors stayed in their homes. Without that protection, they would likely have been displaced or homeless.

That fight taught me one thing I carry into this race: preservation is always cheaper than displacement, and it requires political will more than new programs.

On Council I will dedicate significant Housing Production Trust Fund dollars to preservation, tenant purchase transactions, and nonprofit acquisitions. I will restore emergency rental assistance, which this Council allowed to collapse from \$63 million in FY24 to \$8.6 million in FY26. I will guarantee right to counsel in eviction proceedings, restore tenant purchase rights for 2-to-4 unit buildings, cap rent increases at the rate of inflation, and close the loopholes landlords use to price people out.

DC needs tens of thousands of new income-restricted homes. That means social housing, community land trusts, and ownership models that stay affordable permanently — not just until the tax credits expire.

The people making decisions about housing are too often the same people profiting from it. That is not a healthy system. I intend to change it.

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?

Safe housing is not a favor a landlord extends to a tenant. It is a legal obligation and in DC it is one too many landlords are allowed to violate with too little consequence.

I have seen this in Congress Heights. Mold unremediated for months. Heat that fails in January. Repairs promised and never made. Residents who know their unit is unsafe but stay silent because they fear eviction more than they trust enforcement.

On Council I will push for aggressive agency oversight with real consequences: inspections that actually happen, violations that carry real fines, and a licensing system where repeat offenders lose the right to rent in DC. Public dollars like tax abatements, vouchers, subsidies of any kind must come with public standards. A landlord who accepts a Housing Choice Voucher and allows a unit to fall into disrepair does not get to keep the contract.

I will fully fund tenant support organizations so residents know their rights and have help enforcing them. Too many people stay in unsafe conditions not because they accept them but because no one has told them they have a right to fight back.

Safe housing requires enforcement. Enforcement requires political will. I intend to bring both.

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 the beds that exist are not designed to serve everyone who needs them.

As a pharmacist I know that the same diagnosis does not mean the same treatment. People experience homelessness for different reasons — fleeing abuse, job loss, a mental health crisis, a family rupture. Each path in requires a different path out. LGBTQ+ youth face real safety risks in congregate settings not built with them in mind. Women fleeing violence need spaces that are actually safe. A one-size shelter fails all of them.

On Council I will fight to fully fund permanent supportive housing and push for population-specific shelter capacity that serves the full range of people with dignity.

Shelter is a bridge, not a destination. The measure of DC's response is not how many beds it has. It is whether people can move through those beds into permanent housing. Housing First is the only approach that actually works. DC has not fully committed to it. I will fight until it does.

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?

When DC officials say the city "shouldn't have encampments," what they mean is the city shouldn't have to look at them. I oppose no-tent zones and sweeps that scatter belongings, destroy documents, and sever relationships with outreach workers that took months to build.

As an ANC Commissioner in Ward 8 I learned that trust between residents and government is fragile and hard to rebuild. That is doubly true for people who have been failed repeatedly by institutions. Criminalize their presence and you do not move them toward housing. You move them further from the people who can actually help.

I will require genuine housing options before any encampment closure proceeds. Fully funded outreach teams, day centers, safe storage, continuity of care, and keeping pets with their owners — because for many people living outside that animal is their most consistent relationship.

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?

DC is not poor. DC has a mayor who found room for corporate tax preferences and developer subsidies while finding no room for a single new housing voucher for people experiencing homelessness. Budgets are moral documents. This one tells you exactly what this administration values.

On Council I will fight that budget. I will push for progressive revenue including a millionaires tax, increased capital gains rates, a Business Activity Tax on large firms avoiding DC taxes and direct those dollars toward housing.

But new vouchers mean nothing if the pipeline is broken. As a pharmacist I know a prescription that never reaches the patient does not heal anyone. DC already has vouchers that are not working because landlords sit on units and lease-up timelines stretch for months while people wait in shelter. I will require public reporting on every stage of the voucher pipeline so we can see exactly where the system is failing and hold DCHA accountable for fixing it.

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

When shots rang out on my street in Congress Heights and bullets hit the front of my home, I found three young men shaken outside. I did not call the police. I sat with them and listened. What they told me was not about violence. It was about a system that had written them off — records blocking every job, nowhere to go. That conversation led directly to the expungement clinics that have now served hundreds of DC residents.

During COVID I made sure Ward 8 residents could access vaccines regardless of whether they had a permanent address. I fought evictions for neighbors on the edge. In every one of those interactions the person in front of me was the expert on their own life.

Policy built with people, not for them. That is the standard I will hold myself to on Council. It means hearings in the evenings and on weekends so a person navigating shelter does not have to choose between democracy and survival. It means going to communities instead of demanding they come to government.