

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

There need to be far far more units of housing in the city. I have committed to bringing 5,000 new units of housing to Ward 1 with at least 25 per cent affordable. One of my first bills will be a use it or lose it bill. There are likely thousands of long vacant properties across the District. My bill would have the city purchase those that have been vacant for 3 or more years bought via eminent domain by the city and returned to housing and retail with 25 per cent for low income households. Also numerous city properties such as 3d and 4d police facilities should be redeveloped for mixed use including 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?

There has to be hands on aggressive oversight of the Dept. of Buildings to insure housing is safe. I will tour any and all sites which have been found with unsafe conditions until they are up to code - unsafe housing is risking the lives of those living there. I will work with AG's office to identify and correct such housing with whatever administrative and legal means are available.

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

A key priority is more safe housing for LGBTQ plus youth and those other homeless most at risk of being victims of sexual assault and violence - women the elderly and those suffering from mental illness. I would prioritize adding housing and shelter beds for these groups in adequate numbers to meet the need.

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?

There needs to be available safe and secure shelter available for all when an encampment is closed with a professional team led by MSW certified Social Workers aiding those about to lose their homes.

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 am not certain resources are limited. Many vacant buildings are not taxed at the higher rates they should be. Exorbitant professional sports players earnings made here should be taxed. I support a higher tax on the top one per cent of households in DC....when all possible revenue sources are investigated and implemented only then would I look at where can the budget be cut. I suspect a thorough review of the city's budget and possible revenue sources could show positive results.

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

I worked with Mitch Snyder and CCNV in the late 1970's on getting shelters opened and running. I founded Calvary Shelter for Homeless Women in 1983.

The homeless taught me from the get go - they wanted to be self reliant and not get hand outs to succeed. I have incorporated that yes we can yes we will overcome attitude and posture on issues facing the community in my work on housing, safety, education and youth services all of these years. I helped to revitalize downtown for all - inclusive for all - and will do the same for Ward 1.