

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 renters being cost-burdened is unacceptable. I will act on both supply and access.

First, I will accelerate production of affordable housing using the Housing Production Trust Fund, prioritizing units for low- and moderate-income residents. I've proposed building at least 1,000 high-quality, small-footprint homes (not "tiny houses") for seniors, working residents, and recent graduates—delivered by DC-based small businesses.

Second, I will expand pathways to ownership and stability by strengthening rent support, leveraging public land, and requiring stronger affordability set-asides in new developments.

Measured outcomes: more units delivered faster, lower rent burdens, and increased housing stability.

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 a basic right.

I will strengthen enforcement of housing codes by increasing inspections, holding negligent landlords accountable, and streamlining tenant complaint processes so residents get faster responses.

At the same time, I will invest in rehabilitation of aging housing stock—especially affordable units—to ensure they remain safe and habitable.

Measured outcomes: fewer violations, faster repairs, and safer living conditions across all wards.

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?

We do not currently have enough safe, appropriate shelter capacity—especially for women, families, youth, and LGBTQ+ residents.

I will expand non-congregate shelter options, including smaller, safer sites and transitional housing that respects dignity and privacy. We must also improve placement coordination so individuals are matched to the right setting quickly.

Ultimately, the goal is not just more beds—but faster pathways from shelter to permanent

housing.

Measured outcomes: reduced overcrowding, shorter shelter stays, and better outcomes for residents.

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?

Encampments are not a solution—but neither is displacement without support.

My approach is humane and structured: closures should only occur when adequate housing or shelter options are available and clearly offered. Every closure must be paired with outreach, case management, storage of personal belongings, and real placement opportunities.

We should measure success not by how many encampments we close—but by how many people we successfully move into stable housing.

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?

In a constrained budget environment, we must be strategic—but we cannot retreat.

I will prioritize housing vouchers for the most vulnerable residents while also expanding supply-side solutions to reduce long-term demand. This includes maximizing federal resources, improving program efficiency, and ensuring vouchers we already fund are fully utilized.

At the same time, my broader economic plan—jobs, apprenticeships, and income growth—reduces housing instability at its root.

Measured outcomes: more effective use of limited dollars and fewer residents entering homelessness.

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?

The next leader of the District of Columbia Housing Authority must bring integrity, operational excellence, and urgency.

They must restore public trust, improve voucher utilization, modernize systems, and accelerate repairs and redevelopment of public housing.

My expectation will be clear: transparency, accountability, and measurable performance—moving people into housing faster and preserving existing units.

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

Throughout my career, I have worked directly with residents, service providers, and community leaders—including those with lived experience.

Programs like “Incarceration to Incorporation” and my work supporting returning citizens were shaped by listening to those directly impacted.

As Mayor, I will formalize this approach by ensuring advisory input from individuals with lived experience is embedded in policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

Those closest to the challenges must help shape the solutions.