



Opportunity DC 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

About Opportunity DC:

Opportunity DC advocates for priorities that grow our local economy, make government work better and faster, and make DC a more affordable place to live. We partner with pragmatic leaders to pass effective legislation and help elect champions capable of leading our city forward. Our policy priorities include:

1. Foster a regionally competitive economy that unleashes innovation, creates new housing, and lowers costs for District residents.
2. Eliminate and streamline bureaucratic barriers that increase the cost of production and raise prices for District residents.
3. Advance a comprehensive approach, including resources for law enforcement and root cause solutions, to build safe and affordable communities.
4. Ensure every student receives a quality education and can access a school best suited for their needs.

To learn more about our mission and work, please visit [**opportunity-dc.org**](https://opportunity-dc.org).

Endorsement Process Timeline:

1. Each candidate receives the questionnaire by January 23rd.
2. Each candidate returns the questionnaire by midnight on February 21st.
3. Opportunity DC panel interviews candidates February 23rd – March 6th.
4. Opportunity DC may endorse a candidate any time after March 2nd.

Instructions:

Please return your questionnaire as a PDF to mfox@opportunitydc.us by 11:59 PM on February 21st. We appreciate your responses to our questionnaire. Your written answers, other than private campaign contact information, will be shared publicly on our website and for our voter guide. Follow-up interviews with our Board will be confidential and used only for internal endorsement discussions. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the address above. Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully fill out our questionnaire and share your priorities with District residents.



General Information:

1. Candidate Name: Dwight Davis
2. Office sought: DC Council At Large
3. Is your campaign using traditional fundraising or DC's Fair Elections public financing? Fair Elections public financing.
4. Mailing address of campaign HQ: 4914 7th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017
5. Campaign manager's name and contact information: Ms. Darlene Gamble, 555 Massachusetts Avenue NW, #109 Washington, DC 20001
6. Campaign press secretary and contact information: NA
7. Campaign website(s):
8. Campaign and/or candidate social media account(s):
9. Please share any accomplishments or experiences that reflect your commitment to advancing Opportunity DC's policy priorities:
10. Current and recent occupations(s):
11. Professional affiliations:
12. Community service honors:
13. All endorsements to date:
14. Involvement with business organizations:
15. Previous offices held:



1. What do you believe are the three largest policy challenges facing the District and what are your legislative or oversight solutions? **(Please limit responses to 300 words or less)**

1. Federal interference in the DC's self-governance remains a fundamental challenge. Congress retains the ability to overturn local laws and delay our budget, creating uncertainty for residents, businesses, and city agencies. When our government cannot act decisively, it affects everything from public safety resources to housing investments. As a Councilmember, I would work with regional partners and national leaders to defend DC's autonomy, advocate for statehood, and ensure that District agencies are operating efficiently and transparently so we can demonstrate responsible local governance.

2. Affordability—particularly housing—continues to put pressure on District families. We must accelerate housing production by streamlining permitting processes and removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers that slow development. At the same time, the Council must strengthen oversight to ensure public investments in housing produce units that working families can afford.

3. We must ensure our education system prepares students for real economic opportunity. As an educator, I see that students thrive when learning connects to careers. Expanding career and technical education, early college programs, and partnerships between schools, universities, and local industries will help build a stronger workforce pipeline while giving families access to high-quality schools that meet their children's needs.

Abundant & Affordable Housing:

2. DC's average housing costs are 140% above the national average. Investors tell us DC laws, rules, and regulations make building housing here more expensive, time-consuming, and bureaucratic compared to other jurisdictions—creating a scarcity of available housing that drives up rent and home prices. Do you agree that increasing the supply of available housing, including market-rate, will lower the cost of rent and homes for residents over time?
 - a. Agree
 - b. Disagree
3. Zoning and land use policy can restrict where housing is built and the number of units for a specific project. Transit-oriented development (building housing near thoroughfares and public transit) helps local governments plan housing near key services and transportation hubs. Do you support or oppose requiring all areas of Washington DC, currently zoned for commercial development, are also automatically zoned for high-density residential development?
 - a. Support
 - b. Oppose
4. In 2025, DC lawmakers modernized the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) to make DC a more attractive and viable place to build housing. Building enough housing to address DC's supply shortage will require local government to enact more laws and regulatory reforms so that DC compete within our region and across the country for limited capital



investment. What 1 – 3 legislative or regulatory proposals do you support to make DC a more attractive place to build both affordable and market-rate housing. (**Please limit responses to 250 words or less**)

Addressing the District's housing shortage requires policies that both increase housing supply and ensure that residents across income levels can continue to live in our city. I support several practical reforms that can make DC a more competitive place to build housing.

First, the District should streamline the housing permitting and approval process. Developers often face lengthy and complicated regulatory reviews that delay projects and increase costs. Establishing clearer timelines, improving coordination among agencies, and modernizing our permitting systems would help bring housing online more quickly while maintaining strong safety and planning standards.

Second, we should continue to encourage housing development near public transit and major job centers. Transit-oriented development allows the District to make better use of existing infrastructure while creating walkable neighborhoods where residents can live closer to work, schools, and services.

Third, the District should strengthen partnerships between the public and private sectors to build mixed-income housing. The city can use tools such as publicly owned land and the Housing Production Trust Fund to partner with developers to build both affordable and market-rate housing. Strategic public investment can help unlock larger private investments and increase the number of homes built across the city.

5. What additional policies and strategies do you support to address the housing needs of current and future residents of all income levels in the District? (**Please limit responses to 250 words or less**)

Addressing the District's housing needs requires a balanced strategy that increases housing supply while ensuring that residents across income levels can remain in the city.

First, the District should continue to accelerate housing production across all eight wards. Streamlining permitting processes, modernizing zoning policies, and encouraging mixed-use development can help bring new housing online more quickly and efficiently.

Second, the city must strengthen investments in affordable housing. Programs such as the Housing Production Trust Fund and inclusionary zoning policies help ensure that new developments include units that are affordable to working families. Maintaining and expanding these tools will be essential as the city grows.

Third, we should expand pathways to homeownership for District residents. Homeownership remains one of the most effective ways for families to build generational wealth. Down payment assistance programs, first-time homebuyer initiatives, and support for moderate-income families can help more residents purchase homes and remain in the communities they love.

Finally, the District should continue to encourage transit-oriented development and office-to-residential conversions, particularly in areas with underutilized commercial space. Bringing more residents into these neighborhoods will support local businesses, strengthen communities, and make better use of existing infrastructure.

Together, these strategies can help ensure the District remains an affordable, vibrant city for residents today and for future generations.

Economic Innovation & Workforce Development:

6. In July of 2024, DC lawmakers increased the paid family leave tax (a payroll tax on District employers) from .23% to .75% of total wages. The additional revenue went to offset \$2 billion in new general fund expenditures rather than towards expanding paid family leave. The higher payroll tax makes it harder for local employers, especially schools, hospitals, and small businesses, to grow and hire District residents. Do you support or oppose eliminating the 2024 payroll tax increase on DC employers over the next four years?
- a. Support**
 - b. Oppose
7. Do you support or oppose [B26-0229](#), The Personal Property Tax Form Simplification Act, which eliminates the requirement for businesses to file personal property tax form (FP-31) if they are below the proposed \$325,000 threshold?
- a. Support**
 - b. Oppose



8. In DC, some workers must obtain occupational licenses from government-appointed boards and pay large fees just to work as an interior designer, barber, cosmetologist, athletic trainer, and manicurist, among others. These barriers artificially limit employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for District residents. Do you support or oppose reducing the time and financial requirements necessary to obtain occupational licenses in the workforce categories listed above?
- Support
 - Oppose**

Efficient & Effective Government:

9. Since 2020, the District's budget spending has dramatically outpaced new revenue growth. DC government will have to become more efficient and grow the tax base, without raising tax rates, to sustainably fund core services moving forward. Where are three areas you believe DC government should reduce spending or grow our tax base to ensure long term fiscal stability? **(Please be as specific as possible and limit responses to 250 words or less)**

1. We should improve operational efficiency across agencies. Too often residents, businesses, and nonprofits encounter duplicative processes and lengthy delays in permitting, procurement, and licensing. Modernizing technology systems, improving interagency coordination, and conducting regular performance audits can reduce administrative costs while improving service delivery.
2. We must focus on revitalizing and expanding its economic base, particularly in downtown and commercial corridors. The shift to remote work has significantly reduced commercial activity and property tax revenues. Encouraging office-to-residential conversions, supporting small businesses, and attracting emerging industries such as technology, life sciences, and creative industries can help bring new residents, workers, and investment into the city.
3. We should strengthen oversight of large capital projects and contracts to ensure public dollars are being used efficiently. Stronger accountability measures, transparent procurement practices, and clearer performance benchmarks can help prevent cost overruns and ensure that public investments deliver real value to residents. By improving government efficiency, revitalizing the DC's economy, and strengthening fiscal oversight, we can build a sustainable revenue base while continuing to invest in the core services that residents rely on.

10. Do you support or oppose requiring the Council to review economic impact assessments, generated by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), for all new legislation and regulations that impact District businesses?

- Support**
- Oppose

11. Do you believe there are any government rules or regulations that should be updated, streamlined, or eliminated to make government more efficient and lower administrative burdens on residents? **Please list up to 3 rules/regulations & how you would change them:**

- " First, the District should modernize and streamline the permitting and inspection process for housing and commercial development. Currently, developers, homeowners, and small businesses often face lengthy delays due to overlapping reviews across multiple agencies. Establishing clearer timelines, improving interagency coordination, and expanding digital permitting systems would help reduce delays while maintaining strong safety and planning standards.
- " The District should simplify the business licensing process. Many entrepreneurs must navigate multiple agencies and confusing requirements when starting or expanding a business. Creating a more unified "one-stop" licensing system and improving online access to licensing services would reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for small businesses to operate in the District.

- " The District should review duplicative reporting and compliance requirements placed on nonprofits and community-based organizations that partner with the city. These organizations often provide essential services but must navigate complex contracting and reporting systems. Streamlining procurement and reporting processes would allow these organizations to focus more resources on serving residents rather



Safe Communities:

12. Do you think DC government should increase, decrease, or maintain current funding levels for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).
- a. Increase funding
 - b. Decrease funding
 - c. Maintain current funding**
13. Do you think MPD should have more, fewer or the same number of officers on the force?
- a. More officers**
 - b. Fewer officers
 - c. The same number of officers
14. Please provide 1 - 3 policies or strategies you support to make residents, workers, and businesses safer in DC. **(Please limit responses to 250 words or less)**

First, the District should strengthen youth programming and expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways that connect students to real career opportunities. Many young people disengage from school when they do not see a clear pathway to economic success. Expanding programs in areas such as technology, healthcare, construction trades, and sports-related careers can help students develop valuable skills while creating stronger connections between schools, employers, and the local workforce.

The District should continue investing in community-based violence interruption programs. These programs work directly with individuals and neighborhoods most impacted by violence and help mediate conflicts before they escalate. Evidence from cities across the country shows that well-supported violence interruption programs can reduce retaliation cycles and build stronger community trust.

The District must ensure that the Metropolitan Police Department has the staffing and resources needed to respond quickly and effectively to residents and businesses. Strengthening recruitment, improving training, and building stronger partnerships between officers and communities will help rebuild trust and improve public safety outcomes.

Quality Education:

15. Do you support or oppose Mayoral control of the District's public school system, as established by the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007?
- a. Support**
 - b. Oppose
16. Do you support or oppose funding DC Public School (DCPS) and DC public charter school students at equal levels, weighted by student need, through the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula?
- a. Support**
 - b. Oppose



17. Chronic truancy among DCPS students has increased dramatically in recent years. How do you propose we reduce truancy levels to ensure students receive a quality education?
(Please limit responses to 250 words or less)

Reducing chronic truancy requires more than new programs—it requires rebuilding strong relationships between schools, families, and communities. When students and families feel disconnected from their school community, attendance often suffers. As an educator, I have seen that meaningful engagement with families is one of the most effective ways to improve student attendance.

First, schools must strengthen partnerships with families and community organizations. Schools should prioritize proactive outreach, regular communication, and trusted relationships with parents and guardians. When families feel welcomed, respected, and included in the school community, students are far more likely to attend consistently.

Second, the District should strengthen early intervention systems that identify attendance issues before they become chronic. Schools need dedicated staff and support services to work directly with families facing barriers such as transportation challenges, housing instability, or health concerns.

Third, we must ensure that students see school as relevant to their future. Expanding career and technical education (CTE), career exploration programs, and real-world learning opportunities can help students see a clear connection between education and economic opportunity.

Programs alone will not solve truancy. Real progress happens when schools build authentic relationships with families and students and create learning environments where young people feel connected, supported, and motivated to attend every day.

18. (Optional) Please elaborate on any of your answers above. (Please limit responses to 250 words or less)

Question 8: Occupational licensing requirements should always be reviewed to ensure they are efficient and not unnecessarily burdensome. However, these standards also exist to protect public health, safety, and professional quality. Many of the professions listed—including cosmetology, athletic training, and personal care services—involve direct physical contact with clients and require training to prevent harm.

Rather than broadly reducing time and training requirements, the District should focus on improving the efficiency of licensing processes, reducing unnecessary administrative delays, and ensuring that training programs remain accessible and affordable for residents seeking to enter these professions.

Professional standards help protect consumers and ensure that workers are properly prepared to serve the public. Maintaining strong training and certification requirements, while improving the licensing system's efficiency, strikes the right balance between workforce opportunity and public safety.

Question 16: I support funding students at equitable levels through the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula, weighted by student need. Every student in the District deserves access to the resources necessary to succeed regardless of the type of public school they attend.

At the same time, equitable funding must be paired with strong governance, accountability, and transparency. All publicly funded schools should operate under clear performance standards and evaluation systems that provide meaningful feedback on student outcomes and instructional quality.

Additionally, we must ensure that public dollars invested in DC's schools are used to directly support District students and communities. Strong oversight is necessary to ensure that funds are being used responsibly and that school operators—particularly large national networks—remain accountable to the District and the families they serve.

Equitable funding, paired with strong accountability and transparency, will help ensure that every student in the District receives a high-quality education.