



Questionnaire for Ward 1 DC Council Candidates

Candidate: [Jackie Reyes Yanes](#)

Ward 1

1. Why do you live in Ward 1, rather than another ward?

Ward 1 is home for me in a deeply personal way. I came to this country from El Salvador as a young immigrant, and my family found community here in neighborhoods like Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights. Ward 1 has long been a gateway for immigrant families building new lives in Washington, DC.

Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the tensions and challenges that immigrant communities faced. I remember the Mount Pleasant uprising in 1991, when longtime residents and immigrant families demanded fairness, dignity, and respect from institutions that too often overlooked them. That moment shaped how I see public service. It taught me that the government must listen to communities and must work for everyone, especially those who have historically been left out.

Today, Ward 1 still reflects that same spirit of resilience and diversity. It is a place where immigrants, longtime residents, students, young professionals, families, and seniors live side by side. The ward's energy, culture, and community institutions are the result of generations of people investing in these neighborhoods.

I live in Ward 1 because this community helped shape who I am. It is where I built my life, where my family lives, and where I have dedicated my career in public service. I am running for Council because I want to ensure Ward 1 remains a place where immigrant families, working families, and longtime residents can continue to build their futures.

2. What does it mean to you to be a Democrat in Ward 1?

Being a Democrat in Ward 1 means standing firmly for inclusion, fairness, and opportunity, while also delivering real results for the communities we serve.

Ward 1 has always been a place where the Democratic Party's values are lived out in everyday life. Our neighborhoods are among the most diverse in the District. Immigrant families from Latin America, Africa, and Asia live alongside longtime Black residents, young professionals, students, and working families. Being a Democrat here means recognizing that diversity as a strength and ensuring that our policies reflect and support the people who call Ward 1 home.

For me personally, being a Democrat in Ward 1 is also rooted in my experience as an immigrant from El Salvador. My family came to this country seeking opportunity and stability. The Democratic Party has historically stood with immigrant communities, fighting for civil rights, worker protections, and access to opportunity. That commitment is something I carry with me in my public service.

But being a Democrat in Ward 1 also means being practical and results oriented. Residents expect leadership that not only shares their values but also knows how to navigate government and get things done. That means expanding real affordable housing, supporting working families through childcare access, protecting immigrant communities, and ensuring city services work effectively.

Ward 1 Democrats expect leaders who show up, listen, and fight for their communities. That is the kind of leadership I am committed to providing.

3. What, to you, are Ward 1's best qualities? What do you see as its challenges and opportunities?

Ward 1's greatest strength is its diversity and its sense of community. Our neighborhoods reflect the many cultures and histories that make Washington, DC such a vibrant city. From Mount Pleasant to Columbia Heights, Shaw to Park View, Ward 1 is a place where residents from many backgrounds live, work, and build community together.

Immigrant communities are a central part of that story. Many families came to Ward 1 seeking safety and opportunity, just as my family did. They built small businesses, churches, restaurants, and community organizations that continue to shape the character of our neighborhoods today.

Ward 1 is also a place where residents care deeply about civic life. People attend community meetings, advocate for their neighbors, and organize around issues ranging from housing to public safety. That engagement is one of the ward's greatest assets.

At the same time, Ward 1 faces real challenges. Housing affordability is one of the most urgent. Many longtime residents are struggling to remain in

neighborhoods they helped build. Development has brought growth, but it must also include housing that working families can afford.

Public safety is another issue residents consistently raise. While our neighborhoods remain vibrant and active, recent incidents have reminded us that safety requires coordination between residents, community organizations, and public safety agencies.

These challenges also present opportunities.

Ward 1 can continue to grow while preserving the diversity and community character that define it. By investing in real affordable housing, supporting small businesses, and ensuring city services work effectively, we can strengthen the communities that make Ward 1 special.

4. What would be your number one priority for Ward 1 as the Ward 1 Councilmember?

My number one priority as Ward 1 Councilmember will be expanding and protecting real affordable housing so that longtime residents, working families, and immigrant communities can continue to live in the neighborhoods they helped build.

Ward 1 has experienced tremendous growth over the past two decades, but many residents feel that growth has made it harder to stay in the communities they call home. Rising rents and housing costs are pushing out families, seniors, and workers who have contributed to the vibrancy of neighborhoods like Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, Shaw, and Park View.

As an immigrant from El Salvador, I understand how important stable housing is for families trying to build their lives. My own family came to Ward 1 seeking opportunity and community. Today, many immigrant and working families are facing the same challenges of affordability and stability.

As Councilmember, I will focus on strengthening rent stabilization protections, preserving existing affordable housing, and ensuring new development includes units that are truly affordable for Ward 1 residents. Housing policy must prioritize the people who already live here, not just future growth.

Affordable housing is closely connected to many other issues residents care about, including economic stability, school continuity for children, and the ability for seniors to age in place.

Ward 1's strength comes from its diversity. Protecting affordable housing ensures that the teachers, small business owners, service workers, immigrant families, and longtime residents who make this community special can continue to call it home.

5. *The diversity of Ward 1 means that its more than 85,000 residents often have differing—and sometimes competing—priorities, and their engagement with their elected officials varies widely. How will you balance these competing needs, and ensure fair, effective representation for all Ward 1 residents?*

Ward 1 is one of the most diverse communities in the District, and that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Our neighborhoods include immigrant families, longtime Black residents, young professionals, students, seniors, and small business owners. With more than 85,000 residents, it is natural that people will sometimes have different priorities or perspectives. Balancing those needs requires leadership that listens carefully and engages consistently with residents across the ward.

My approach as Councilmember will be grounded in accessibility and transparency. That means maintaining strong relationships with Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, civic associations, tenant organizations, small business leaders, and community groups. These local leaders provide invaluable insight into the needs of their neighborhoods and help ensure that different voices are represented in decision-making.

Equally important is being physically present in the community. Residents deserve a Councilmember who shows up regularly in neighborhoods, listens to concerns directly, and follows through on issues that matter to them. Being accessible and responsive helps build trust, especially in communities that have historically felt overlooked by the government.

My own life experience shapes how I approach representation. As an immigrant from El Salvador who witnessed the Mount Pleasant uprising in the early 1990s, I learned early on that communities need to feel heard and respected by their government. That moment was a reminder that when people feel excluded from decision-making, frustration grows. Effective leadership means ensuring residents feel included and represented.

When priorities compete, the Councilmember's role is to weigh community input carefully, evaluate long-term impacts, and seek solutions that benefit the broader ward while respecting neighborhood concerns.

Ultimately, fair representation means ensuring every resident feels their voice matters. Ward 1's diversity is a strength, and thoughtful leadership can help ensure that diversity continues to shape the future of our communities.

DC Council

General

1. *Which two Council committees established at the beginning of Council Period 26 (January 2025) would you like to serve on?*

Housing, Health

2. *Why did you select those committees, and what would your top one or two priorities be for each committee?*

If elected, I would be most interested in serving on the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Health.

These committees are directly connected to the issues that residents in Ward 1 raise most frequently: housing affordability, family stability, and access to essential services.

Housing policy is particularly important for Ward 1 because many residents rely on rent-stabilized housing and affordable housing programs to remain in their communities. Strong oversight and thoughtful legislation are necessary to preserve affordable housing and ensure that development benefits current residents as well as future growth.

The Health Committee is also critical because it oversees many programs that support families and communities, including childcare access, behavioral health services, and public health initiatives. Expanding access to affordable childcare is one of my core campaign priorities because it supports working families and strengthens the local economy.

Serving on these committees would allow me to focus on policies that directly affect the everyday lives of Ward 1 residents while helping ensure that District programs are implemented effectively.

3. *How will you ensure you and your staff are ready on day one to navigate DC government successfully?*

Being ready on day one requires preparation, experience, and a strong team.

My career in public service has given me firsthand experience navigating the complexities of District government, including understanding how agencies operate, how budgets are implemented, and how legislation moves through the Council process. That experience will help ensure that my office can engage

effectively with agencies and begin delivering results for Ward 1 residents immediately.

Equally important will be building a strong and capable team. I will prioritize hiring staff with experience in constituent services, legislative research, and community engagement. My office will establish clear systems for tracking constituent requests, coordinating with District agencies, and ensuring timely follow-up.

Strong relationships with community partners will also be essential. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, community organizations, and neighborhood leaders often have deep knowledge of the issues affecting their communities. Maintaining open lines of communication with these partners will help ensure our office remains connected to the needs of residents.

Finally, preparation means listening. Before taking office, I will continue meeting with residents, local organizations, and policy experts to better understand the issues affecting Ward 1 and identify opportunities for collaboration.

A Council office should operate with professionalism, responsiveness, and accountability from day one. That is the standard I intend to bring to the role.

4. Knowing that you cannot answer every request of the residents in Ward 1, which constituent services will you prioritize?

My office will prioritize constituent services that address the issues residents most frequently encounter in their daily lives, particularly housing concerns, public safety coordination, and access to city services.

Housing-related issues will be a central focus. Many Ward 1 residents rely on rent stabilization, affordable housing programs, or tenant protections to remain in their homes. My office will work closely with residents to help them navigate these systems, understand their rights, and resolve disputes when problems arise.

Public safety coordination is another priority. Residents deserve safe neighborhoods and responsive public safety services. My office will work closely with community leaders and relevant agencies to address concerns and ensure resources are deployed effectively.

In addition, we will help residents navigate everyday city services such as sanitation, transportation concerns, and permitting issues. Too often residents feel that requests to city agencies go unanswered. My office will track cases carefully and follow up with agencies to ensure residents receive timely responses.

Effective constituent service is about more than solving individual problems. It is also about identifying patterns and using those insights to advocate for broader improvements in how city agencies operate.

Ultimately, residents should feel confident that their Council office is accessible, responsive, and committed to helping them navigate government successfully.

District Legislative Policy

*The following legislation was introduced in Council Period 26. The bills listed below were chosen because they propose legislative solutions to a variety of issues that affect Ward 1 and are not yet law. This exercise is designed to put a candidate in the shoes of a Councilmember who would evaluate legislation that could become law. **Choose two.***

- Streatery Program Emergency Amendment Act of 2025
- Moped Registration Accountability Amendment Act of 2025
- RESALE Amendment Act of 2025
- **Place-Based Substance Use Disorder Outreach Amendment Act of 2025**
- **Rent Stabilization Protection Amendment Act of 2025**
- E911 Modernization Amendment Act of 2025
- Autonomous Vehicles Amendment Act of 2025
- Open Meetings Clarification Amendment Act of 2025
- Small Retailer Property Tax Credit Expansion Amendment Act of 2025
- Juvenile Curfew Amendment Act of 2025
- Advancing Equity in Special Education Protocols Amendment Act of 2025

1. *Explain, for both bills selected above, what you see as each bill's nexus with Ward 1.*

Rent Stabilization Protection Amendment Act of 2025: Ward 1 has one of the highest concentrations of rent-stabilized housing in the District, making this legislation especially relevant to our residents. Rent stabilization has helped thousands of families remain in neighborhoods like Columbia Heights, Mount Pleasant, and Shaw despite rising housing costs.

Preserving and strengthening rent stabilization protections is essential to maintaining the economic and cultural diversity that defines Ward 1. Without these protections, many longtime residents would face displacement from the communities they helped build.

Place-Based Substance Use Disorder Outreach Amendment Act of 2025: Ward 1 residents care deeply about compassion, public health, and public safety. This legislation addresses the need for coordinated outreach to individuals

experiencing substance use disorders in specific locations where services are needed most.

In areas such as busy commercial corridors and transit hubs, residents often encounter individuals struggling with addiction who need support services. At the same time, neighbors and businesses want safe and welcoming public spaces.

2. Explain, for both bills selected above, whether you would support or oppose each, and if you would propose any amendments.

I would support the Rent Stabilization Protection Amendment Act because it helps preserve affordability and stability for working families and seniors. However, strong enforcement and transparency must accompany these protections. Tenants should clearly understand their rights, and the District must ensure landlords follow the law.

If elected, I would work with tenant advocates, housing providers, and fellow Councilmembers to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and ensure the policy preserves as many affordable units as possible.

Housing stability is fundamental to healthy communities, and protecting rent stabilization is one of the most important tools we have to maintain diversity in Ward 1.

I would support the Place-Based Substance Use Disorder Outreach Amendment Act of 2025 because it recognizes that addiction is fundamentally a public health issue and requires targeted outreach and treatment options. Place-based outreach teams can connect individuals with services while also helping address community concerns.

However, successful implementation requires coordination between multiple agencies, including behavioral health providers, outreach teams, and public safety partners. The District must ensure these teams are properly staffed and resourced to respond effectively.

The goal should be both compassionate care and safer public spaces. By connecting individuals to treatment and support services, we can help residents in crisis while strengthening the health and safety of our communities.

District Budget Policy

1. *What are your top two budget priorities **for Ward 1 specifically**? Please explain why you view them as priorities for the ward. How will you, as a first-term Councilmember without a committee, work with your Council colleagues to meet Ward 1 budget needs?*

My two top budget priorities for Ward 1 are preserving and expanding real affordable housing and expanding access to universal childcare for working families.

Housing affordability is the most urgent issue facing Ward 1 residents. Neighborhoods such as Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, Shaw, and Park View have experienced rapid development and rising housing costs over the past two decades. While growth has brought investment and new opportunities, it has also made it harder for many longtime residents to remain in the communities they helped build.

As an immigrant from El Salvador, I understand how important stable housing is for families building their lives in a new place. My own family came to Ward 1 seeking opportunity and safety. Today, many immigrant and working families face similar challenges as rents rise and housing options become more limited.

For that reason, the District budget must continue to prioritize investments that preserve existing affordable housing and create new units that are truly affordable for working families. This includes strengthening the Housing Production Trust Fund, supporting tenant protection programs, and investing in preservation strategies that keep rent-stabilized housing available to residents.

My second priority is expanding access to affordable childcare. Many Ward 1 families struggle to find childcare that is both accessible and

affordable. Without childcare, parents often cannot remain in the workforce or pursue educational opportunities that would help them support their families.

Expanding childcare access is not only a family issue but also an economic one. Affordable childcare allows parents to work, strengthens our local economy, and helps ensure that children have access to early learning opportunities that support long-term success.

Although first-term Councilmembers are not immediately assigned committees, there are still many ways to advocate effectively for Ward 1 in the budget process. Building strong relationships with Council colleagues is essential. Many of the challenges facing Ward 1 are shared by residents across the District, and identifying common priorities can help build coalitions that support investments in housing, childcare, and community services.

Engaging residents and community organizations will also play an important role. Ward 1 is home to many advocacy organizations, tenant groups, and service providers that have deep expertise in these issues. Their insights can help inform budget priorities and strengthen the case for investments that benefit our communities.

Finally, the Ward 1 Council office can play a strong role in the public budget process by helping residents participate in hearings and providing clear information about how the budget affects their neighborhoods.

Budget decisions ultimately reflect our values as a city. By prioritizing affordable housing and childcare access, we can help ensure that Ward 1 remains a place where families of all backgrounds can live, work, and thrive.

- 2. Ward 1 Democrats overwhelmingly identified affordability as their top issue they want their elected leaders to address. What is the top affordability concern you think Ward 1 residents face, and how will you use the constituent services, legislative, budgetary, or oversight powers (i.e. choose one) of the Ward 1 Council seat to address this concern?*

The top affordability concern facing Ward 1 residents is housing affordability, particularly rising rents that make it difficult for working families and longtime residents to remain in their communities.

Ward 1 has long been one of the most diverse areas of the District. Immigrant families, Black residents who have lived in these neighborhoods for generations, young professionals, students, and small business owners all contribute to the vibrant character of our communities. However, rising housing costs threaten that diversity.

Many residents who helped build neighborhoods like Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, and Shaw now face difficult choices about whether they can afford to remain in the communities they call home.

As Ward 1 Councilmember, I would use the legislative powers of the Council to address this challenge by strengthening policies that preserve affordable housing and protect tenants.

One important step is strengthening rent stabilization protections. Ward 1 contains a large number of rent-stabilized units, which provide critical stability for thousands of families. Protecting and preserving these units helps ensure that residents are not displaced by rising housing costs.

In addition, the Council must support policies that preserve existing affordable housing and ensure new development includes meaningful affordability. Growth in the District should benefit both new residents and the people who have long called these neighborhoods home.

My own experience as an immigrant from El Salvador shapes how I approach this issue. My family came to Ward 1 seeking opportunity and stability. Housing is the foundation that allows families to pursue education, employment, and community engagement.

Protecting housing affordability helps ensure that Ward 1 remains the vibrant and diverse community that so many residents cherish.

3. *Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports issued by the District's Chief Financial Officer consistently show that the District will bring in fewer financial resources in future years. At the same time, government program costs are rising. What are two solutions you would propose to address these trends, if anything?*

The District must address declining revenue projections and rising program costs through a combination of responsible budgeting and smarter government operations.

First, the District should prioritize evaluating existing programs to ensure that resources are being used effectively. Every program should be reviewed regularly to determine whether it is meeting its goals and delivering measurable results for residents. Programs that are not achieving their intended outcomes should be improved or redesigned so that limited resources can be used more efficiently.

Second, the District should focus on improving coordination between agencies and reducing bureaucratic barriers that increase administrative costs. Too often, programs operate in silos across multiple agencies, creating inefficiencies that make services harder for residents to access. Improving coordination can help ensure that resources are used more effectively while also improving the quality of services delivered to residents.

At the same time, budget decisions must reflect the priorities and values of the District. Investments in areas such as affordable housing, education, and public health provide long-term benefits that strengthen communities and support economic stability.

Ward 1 residents understand the importance of responsible budgeting. Many families must make careful financial decisions to support their households, and government should approach budgeting with the same level of responsibility.

By focusing on accountability, efficiency, and strategic investments, the District can navigate fiscal challenges while continuing to support the programs that residents rely on.

District Government Oversight (500 word limit per question)

1. *What two Ward 1-specific government performance issues do you think could be addressed through persistent oversight, rather than legislation or budgeting?*

Two Ward 1 issues that would benefit from stronger and more consistent oversight are public safety coordination in high-activity corridors and the responsiveness of city services that affect neighborhood quality of life.

Ward 1 includes some of the busiest commercial and transit corridors in the District, including areas around Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant. Residents frequently raise concerns about public safety, particularly in areas with high pedestrian activity and nightlife. These concerns are not simply about enforcement but also about coordination between agencies responsible for public safety, outreach services, and neighborhood engagement.

Effective oversight can help ensure that agencies are working together and deploying resources effectively. The goal should be to maintain vibrant public spaces while also ensuring residents feel safe in their neighborhoods.

Another issue residents consistently raise is the responsiveness of everyday city services. Residents often report delays or inconsistent responses when requesting services related to sanitation, street maintenance, or other quality-of-life concerns.

These issues may not always require new legislation or additional funding. In many cases, they require stronger oversight to ensure agencies are meeting performance standards and responding effectively to community needs.

Oversight hearings provide an opportunity to examine agency performance, identify gaps in service delivery, and ensure that agencies are accountable to the residents they serve.

Ward 1 residents expect city government to function effectively, and consistent oversight can help ensure that agencies deliver the level of service our communities deserve.

2. *Which one or two agencies will you prioritize for performance oversight **for Ward 1-specific concerns** during the 2027 performance oversight hearings?*

- a. *Identify one or two specific programs within those agencies you would direct your oversight.*

The two agencies I would prioritize for performance oversight related to Ward 1 concerns are the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW).

MPD plays a critical role in ensuring public safety across Ward 1 neighborhoods. Oversight should focus on how resources are deployed in high-activity areas and how MPD coordinates with community organizations and other agencies to address public safety concerns.

DPW is responsible for many services that affect residents' daily lives, including sanitation, street cleaning, and waste collection. Residents frequently raise concerns about the consistency and responsiveness of these services, and performance oversight can help ensure agencies meet community expectations.

Within these agencies, I would focus on oversight of community policing initiatives within MPD and sanitation and street maintenance programs within DPW.

Community policing programs are essential for building trust between residents and law enforcement. Oversight should examine how these programs are implemented and whether they effectively engage residents and community partners.

For DPW, oversight should focus on service response times, communication with residents, and overall service reliability.

3. Which one or two agencies will you prioritize for budget oversight **for Ward 1-specific concerns** during the Fiscal Year 2028 budget oversight hearings?

a. Identify one or two specific programs within those agencies you would direct your oversight.

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4. In November 2026, District residents will elect a new Mayor for the first time in 15 years. Councilmembers will be responsible for confirming the appointment of new deputy mayors, new agency heads, and new members on District commissions and boards at a volume not seen in recent history. How will you evaluate nominees and decide whether to confirm a new mayor's nominees to lead an agency or policy-making body?

With a new Mayor taking office for the first time in 15 years, the Council's confirmation responsibility will be critical to making sure District agencies are led by people who can deliver for residents.

From my experience working in the executive branch and collaborating directly with Deputy Mayors and agency directors, I've seen how leadership decisions inside government affect whether programs actually work for our communities.

As Councilmember, I will evaluate nominees based on experience, integrity, and their commitment to serving residents. I will carefully review their qualifications, leadership record, and their ability to run agencies that are transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people they serve. Confirmation should never be automatic. I will ask tough questions and make sure nominees understand the real needs of residents in communities like Ward 1.

Our city deserves leaders who are capable, ethical, and focused on results. I will approach every confirmation with independence, seriousness, and a commitment to making government work better for residents.

Federal Affairs (500 word limit per question)

- 1. How should the DC Council use its oversight and legislative authority to ensure that the constitutional rights of DC residents are upheld?*

The DC Council must use every tool available—oversight, legislation, and advocacy—to defend the constitutional rights of District residents.

Despite paying federal taxes and serving in the military, DC residents still lack full voting representation in Congress. This reality creates ongoing challenges when Congress attempts to interfere with local governance.

The Council plays a critical role in defending the rights of District residents. Through oversight hearings and legislation, Councilmembers can ensure that District agencies uphold civil rights, protect immigrant communities, and enforce anti-discrimination protections.

For Ward 1 in particular, protecting immigrant communities is essential. Many residents come from countries where democratic institutions were

weak or absent. They deserve to feel confident that their rights will be respected and protected in Washington, DC.

The Council must also continue working with national partners to challenge federal overreach when Congress attempts to undermine the District's authority. Protecting constitutional rights requires both local leadership and national advocacy.

- 2. What is your understanding of the District's limitations in policy-making and policy implementation given its status as a federal district, and how would you, as an elected official, balance those limitations with representing your constituents?*

As a federal district, Washington, DC operates under unique constraints that affect policy decisions and governance. Congress maintains ultimate authority over the District and can review or overturn local laws.

This reality requires DC leaders to balance ambition with strategic advocacy. While we must continue advancing policies that reflect the needs of our residents, we must also remain vigilant in defending our local autonomy.

As a Councilmember, I would focus on two priorities: protecting Home Rule and building strong relationships with regional and national partners who support DC's right to self-govern.

Ward 1 residents understand the importance of this fight. Many immigrant families, including my own, came to this country believing in democratic participation. Yet residents of our nation's capital still lack the full representation that democracy promises.

Our goal must be to continue governing responsibly while also pushing forward the long-term fight for full self-determination.

3. How will you work to advance statehood as the Ward 1 Councilmember? What actions have you taken to advance DC statehood and defend Home Rule as a resident of Ward 1?

DC statehood is fundamentally about fairness and democracy. More than 700,000 residents of the District pay federal taxes and contribute to the national economy, yet they lack full voting representation in Congress.

As Ward 1 Councilmember, I would actively support efforts to advance statehood through advocacy, coalition building, and national engagement. As a resident and immigrant, I believe deeply in the importance of democratic participation. My family came to this country believing in the promise of democracy. Yet residents of the nation's capital still do not have full representation in the federal government.

That is why the fight for statehood matters so much.

The Council can help advance this effort by working with national partners, supporting public education campaigns about statehood, and ensuring that District leaders continue to speak with a strong and unified voice.

Statehood is about dignity, representation, and ensuring that the residents of Washington, DC have the same democratic rights as every other American

Democratic Party (500 word limit per question)

- 1. Initiative 83, passed with 73 percent voter support, established ranked-choice voting and overturned closed primaries, but was subject to appropriations. The D.C. Democratic Party opposes open primaries, and has sued to block I-83's open primaries. The Ward 1 Democrats have taken no position on I-83. The Council funded ranked-choice voting, but has not funded open primaries. Do you support or oppose open primaries? Why or why not?*

I support the implementation of ranked-choice voting as approved by voters. Ranked choice voting has the potential to encourage more constructive campaigns and allow voters to express their preferences more fully.

The question of open primaries is more complex. Political parties play an important role in organizing around shared values and policy priorities. At the same time, many District residents who are not registered with a political party want to participate more fully in elections.

My focus is on ensuring that our electoral system encourages participation while maintaining the ability of parties to organize effectively around their principles. Moving forward, I believe this issue should continue to be discussed thoughtfully and transparently, with input from voters, party leaders, and election experts.

- 2. Congressional Republicans have introduced multiple bills attacking Home Rule, and dozens of Congressional Democrats, including some representing districts in our neighboring states of Virginia and Maryland, have voted for several of these bills. How would you approach the need to educate House and Senate Democrats on the importance of Home Rule, the District's unique status, and the need for statehood?*

Educating members of Congress about DC's unique status and the importance of Home Rule requires consistent engagement and coalition building.

Many members of Congress simply do not understand how local governance works in Washington, DC or the ways federal interference affects our residents.

District leaders must build relationships with members of Congress and their staff, particularly Democrats who represent neighboring states and regions. Sharing the experiences of DC residents—families, workers, and small business owners—can help illustrate why Home Rule and statehood matter.

Local leaders, community organizations, and residents must continue advocating together to ensure that Congress respects the rights of DC residents to govern themselves.

Other (300 word limit per question)

1. What differentiates you from your opponents?

My campaign is rooted in lived experience and a long record of public service in Washington, DC.

As an immigrant from El Salvador, I understand firsthand the challenges many Ward 1 families face when navigating opportunity, stability, and belonging in a new country. My family came here seeking safety and opportunity, and the community we found in Ward 1 shaped who I am today.

I also bring experience working inside government, understanding how policies, budgets, and agencies function. That experience allows me to focus not only on ideas but also on implementation and results.

Ward 1 deserves leadership that understands both the community and the mechanics of government. My goal is to combine those perspectives to deliver real results for residents.

2. How do you plan to win this race?

Our campaign is focused on meeting residents where they are and building a broad coalition across Ward 1 neighborhoods.

We are engaging voters through community events, neighborhood outreach, and conversations about the issues that matter most to residents, including affordable housing, childcare access, and effective city services.

Ward 1 voters want leadership that listens and delivers results. By focusing on those priorities and building strong community relationships, we believe we can earn the trust and support of voters across the ward.

3. How much money do you need to raise to win this race?

\$184,789

4. How many votes do you need to win this race, and how do you plan on getting those votes?

Victory in this race will require building strong support across Ward 1 neighborhoods and engaging thousands of voters who care deeply about the future of their communities. Our campaign strategy focuses on community outreach, volunteer engagement, and building relationships with residents across the ward.

5. What is something that you want to share that you did not get to share?

Ward 1 has always been a place of resilience, diversity, and possibility. From immigrant families building new lives to longtime residents preserving community traditions, our neighborhoods reflect the best of Washington, DC.

My life story is deeply connected to this community. I arrived as an immigrant from El Salvador, witnessed moments of struggle and change like the Mount Pleasant uprising, and built a career dedicated to public service in this city.

I am running for Council because I believe Ward 1 deserves leadership that listens, shows up, and delivers results. Together, we can expand real affordable housing, support working families through universal childcare, protect immigrant communities, and ensure city government works for residents.

Ward 1's future should reflect the same diversity, opportunity, and resilience that define its history.