



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | www.CaribbeanPac.org

Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) District of Columbia – 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to cpac.dmv@gmail.com by Friday, April 13, 2018. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

Office Sought: **At-Large Member of the DC Council**

Candidate's Name: **Anita Bonds**

Current Occupation: Incumbent- **At-Large Member of the Council**

Party: **Democrat**

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website):

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1. Please explain your plan or approach to improve agency responsiveness and the quality of the District's constituent services.

As an elected official, I have earned a reputation for delivering quality constituent services to the residents of DC. In 2017, my council office responded to over 1,200 service requests. My office treats each request with compassion and concern regardless of their background, socio-economic status or issue. DC is a world class city due to its acceptance of diverse and vibrant cultures and our government and the workers must reflect that. The expectation of the public is that DC Government will be knowledgeable and timely in its responses to inquiries.

As to regulations, I have experienced when DC Government delivered quality services and when DC has not. Recently, due to changes in regulations and the internet, many services have improved while others have not. For example, after changing the regulations at our DMV Inspections and adding online appointments, things have improved, lines are not long, and your car is inspected within a half-hour. However, many aspects of the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs needs overhaul. Chairman Phil Mendelson has mentioned the possibility of separating the agency into two separate departments and I will support that measure.

2. What specific actions have you initiated, or will you take to support the Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C.?



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I had the privilege of holding council oversight of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs (MACCCA). Although brief, this gave me an opportunity to not only understand the challenges the community faces but to experience their unique customs and heritage and advocate on their behalf. It also allowed me to hear the concerns and successes of Caribbean-owned businesses and work towards strengthening the business community.

I would also like to work with C-PAC to create grant opportunities targeted towards businesses. Additionally, I would like to work to have more grants available for artists. We will be appropriating over \$25 million to the Arts Community and Caribbean-American artist deserve funding.

Additionally, while I worked for Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. he established the Annual Caribbean Parade on Georgia Avenue to honor the National Caribbean American Heritage Month. I want this celebration and parade to be revived so that all residents can share in the culture.

3. Unfortunately, throughout the City many Caribbean-owned businesses closed in recent years. How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the City's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses?

DC has many advantages for our small minority business community. I will work with C-PAC to convene a summit to ensure that the Caribbean-American Business Community is represented and aware of the opportunities available. We have Street Scape programs that provide funds to help small businesses make improvements. Our Business Improvement Districts also offer support and I am willing to bring these entities together to foster an ongoing relationship.

4. What policy actions would you propose or support to improve the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in the District of Columbia?

I will fight to continue the District of Columbia as a Sanctuary City, so that all are welcome and free to live, work, raise a family and associate without fear of the Trump Administration. I have voted for and will continue to support the expansion of programs like Bell Multi-Cultural Center which helps provide those with language immersion and programs that aid in obtaining a green card and gainful employment.



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5. The City's Caribbean Community is the only immigrant community without an Office to address and support community affairs and services. Would you support the creation of such an office?

Most definitely, the cost to the city would be minimal while the gains would be enormous.

6. How do you plan to help strengthen the Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) program since larger business take advantage of many small businesses, including Caribbean-owned ones, with whom they partner under this program?

I support the District's CBE program which has evolved as one of the most progressive local inclusion programs in the United States, serving as a best practice model for other local and state jurisdictions. However, recently, I have heard complaints of the majority contractor abusing the minority contractor. I have called for the DSLBD to improve the oversight of CBE participation and develop a standard operating procedure to track the status of the CBE agreement to ensure goals are met.

7. What policies will you support to address the challenges facing DREAMers, the administration's suspension of temporary protective status for many D.C. residents, and the threats facing sanctuary cities?

As previously mentioned, I support DC as a Sanctuary City. The District is home to nearly 1,000 DREAMers who are our friends, neighbors and students. we must protect their rights. I recently voted in support of a Council Resolution to protect Federal DACA and I co-introduced, the UDC Dream Act to allow undocumented students to attend the University of the District of Columbia at the in-state rate.

8. In Washington, D.C., many seniors seek to age in their homes and/or communities. What efforts will you take to improve access of services and the quality of programs for the City's senior citizens?

As a member of the Council with oversight on aging, I have championed seniors through my actions and legislation. I have increased funding for our Office on Aging to over 45 million, this includes great programming including senior wellness centers, transportation options, healthy living seminars and quality of life programs. Under my leadership, for the first time ever senior villages will get funding to expand and grow. I have introduced legislation that freezes senior citizen's rent increases, protects them from financial abuse, and allows them to receive funds to improve their homes accessibility and enhance their independent living where they can age in place.



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9. What issues are you most concerned about in your run for political office

Combating the affordable housing crisis, eradicating homelessness, protecting seniors to age with dignity and grace, and providing A students with access to an equal quality education are my top priorities.