



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: DC Council, Ward 1

Candidate’s Name: Brianne K. Nadeau

Current Occupation: Councilmember

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): Brianne for DC 2018, P.O. Box 73081, Washington, DC 20056 brianne@briannefordc.com briannefordc.com

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

When I visit our neighborhood schools, and the children ask me what the most important part of my job is, I always tell them, listening to those I serve. When I was on the campaign trail in 2014, I went door-to-door for three years talking with residents about the issues they are concerned about. I held more formal listening sessions as well. It was these conversations that helped shape my early agenda. Since I’ve taken office, I’ve continued those conversations through my monthly community office hours; my pop-up office hours at Metro stations, parks and festivals; telephone town halls; and one-on-one correspondence. Ward 1 residents have given me ideas for legislation, as well as insights into what is and isn’t working in government. My community engagement efforts are essential to my effectiveness as a legislator.

The most fundamental part of my job is to help Ward 1 residents cut through the red tape to access the District’s services that they deserve. I am proud that my team and I have built the best constituent services operation in the District. Whether by phone, email, or in person, my team and I are available around the clock to assist with the most basic city services as well as the incredibly complex ones.

Over the past three and a half years I have created one of the most effective constituent service operations in the city. I have been able to help thousands of residents. As I do this work, I am compiling data on persistent issues and identifying long-term fixes for problems that can be resolved through legislation or better oversight.

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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In Ward 1, Georgia Avenue is the home to many Caribbean-owned businesses. I have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into small business support in this corridor since I became Councilmember, through the creation of a Main Street program to provide support and technical assistance to businesses, by ensuring all parts of lower Georgia Avenue are eligible for Great Streets grants and through the creation of a Clean Team to keep the area clean and safe. I understand from my review of the meeting notes of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs that there is a desire to hang a banner across Georgia Avenue for CAHM, and I support that as well.

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?

As Councilmember I have been a strong supporter of the District's Main Street programs, creating two new ones in Ward 1, the Great Streets program that provides capital improvement grants for our small businesses, and I recently introduced legislation that would provide rental assistance to long-time locally owned businesses. I've worked to improve processes at DCRA and DLSB, and I am advocating for enhancements in the FY 2019 budget for the Small Business Technical Assistance grant program.

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

I represent the most diverse ward in the District, which includes a large immigrant population. I believe that all people, regardless of their background should be treated with dignity, and have access to the supports they need to build a life in the District. Since taking office I have:

- Regularly reiterated that DC is a Sanctuary City
- Introduced and passed a unanimous resolution in the DC Council condemning ICE Raids
- Led three Know Your Rights sessions for Ward 1 residents and students
- Introduced and passed legislation to study the mental health needs of the immigrant community
- Introduced and passed legislation to make it easier for immigrants to renew their healthcare benefit through the Alliance program
- Introduced legislation to establish a permanent legal services fund for immigrants
- Supported legislation to establish one drivers license for all, regardless of immigration status
- Supported legislation to allow legal permanent residents to vote in local elections
- Worked with the Mayor, Attorney General and government contractors to protect immigrant data



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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?

Yes I would.

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've worked with DSLBD to make the CBE process more accessible to businesses, but also to recruit more small and local businesses to the program itself. Each year the Council receives an annual report of how well our District agencies are doing in following our law of using CBEs for our own government business. Many times agencies indicate they cannot find CBEs in the field in which they need services. It's incredibly important that DSLBD is out in the community helping small and minority-owned businesses in all fields become CBEs, so there are more opportunities city-wide.

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?

In this Council period I introduced legislation to establish a permanent legal services fund for immigrants, which is working its way through the judiciary committee. I believe we will need more than \$2 million in order properly fund the necessarily legal services to support our immigrant residents.

Our immigrants are facing a great deal of trauma, both from what they experienced in their home countries, as well as issues they face upon arrival in the United States. I also introduced and passed legislation to study the mental health needs of the immigrant community so we can ensure we have enough resources dedicated to serving them.

8. What concrete steps will you take to improve the District of Columbia's Public School system – including facilities and equipment, teacher treatment, relationships with parents, as well as education standards and test scores in all wards of the City?

I believe that all young people in the District's public schools deserve high-quality instruction and training in facilities that are safe, modern and inclusive of state-of-the-art instructional technology. As Councilmember, I am fighting for well-funded, highly-resourced schools with dedicated, well-trained professionals determined to prepare all public students for college, careers and productive citizenship.

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*Anguilla * Antigua and Barbuda * Aruba * The Bahamas * Barbados * Belize British Virgin Islands * Cayman Islands * Cuba * Dominica * Dominican Republic * Grenada * Guadeloupe * Guyana * Haiti * Jamaica * Martinique * Montserrat * Netherlands Antilles * Puerto Rico * St. Kitts and Nevis * St. Lucia * St. Vincent and the Grenadines * Suriname * Trinidad and Tobago * Turks and Caicos * U.S. Virgin Islands*



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Over the past three and a half years I have secured hundreds of millions of dollars for school facilities and overseen successful modernizations in buildings that serve Ward 1 students. I also created the Office of Youth Outcomes, which provides wraparound services to our children – tutoring, mentoring, extracurricular activities and other programs that seek to lift our children up out of poverty and help close the achievement gap.

The recent scandals involving graduation rates that were too good to be true, and suspension rates that failed to count students being put out of school using other words, and the earlier test score scandals all point to a lack of transparency in the data about how we're doing. Clearly some things are improving, but the achievement gap has widened, not narrowed, and test scores have only made modest improvements over the past decade in both the DCPS and charter sectors, so we need to take another look at what's working and what isn't. The Council's role is one of oversight and I'm not afraid to take a hard look and make mid-course corrections. That is why I joined with eight of my fellow Councilmembers earlier this month to introduce the *District of Columbia Education Research Advisory Board and Collaborative Establishment Amendment Act*, which will create an independent Education Research Collaborative. The Collaborative will conduct research and assess the data collection of our education agencies. This will allow us to further distance education from politics and provide the Council with more tools for effective oversight of our education system.

9. 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?

Since I began as Councilmember I have:

- Supported budget enhancements to Safe at Home program to help Seniors remain in their own homes with modifications to their property – grab bars, lifts, ramps, etc. up to \$10,000 per household.
- Worked to improve the EPD Waiver program to streamline the process for obtaining home health aids
- Working group now on workforce development for home care workers to ensure we can attract the cream of the crop, not the bottom of the barrel
- Support healthy food programs such as Food & Friends and Produce Plus
- Helped secure \$250,000 for Senior Villages, which are communities of seniors that work together to support one another as they age in their own homes
- Funded Senior Wellness Centers at \$2,891,000.
- Increased senior transportation funding by \$445,000.

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

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Over the last three and a half years I've had a laser focus on issues that impact the people of Ward 1, the most diverse ward in the District. Whether it's my work on the Housing committee to ensure government resources are dedicated to truly affordable housing, my work to ensure each of our schools has the resources to allow our children to thrive, my work to fight crime by funding additional police and gang violence prevention as well as introducing legislation that gets guns off the streets, or my efforts to support our immigrant and LGBT communities I am out front and center working for Ward 1. As chair of the Human Services committee I've also committed millions of dollars toward ending homelessness for youth, single adults and families, and made landmark reforms in our public assistance program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. We have come a long way and are making great progress in our ward and communities, but there is certainly much more work to be done and I will continue to fight for our ward every day.

In my first term on the Council, I have worked hard to fulfill my promises to the people of Ward 1:

- Putting more than 500 units of truly affordable housing in the pipeline in Ward 1, either by preserving existing units or producing new ones.
- Modernizing four schools serving the Ward with two more on the way.
- Establishing a new program office within the District government to provide wrap-around services to our children, including tutoring, mentoring, after school activities and other programs that improve achievement.
- Supporting our commercial corridors and small businesses with new Main Street programs and Clean Teams
- Enhancing public safety with additional funding for gang violence prevention; passing comprehensive criminal justice reform (NEAR Act), and increasing funding to MPD
- Providing additional funding for our recreation facilities
- Increasing the minimum wage and passing and funding Paid Family Leave