



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: D.C. Council Ward 1

Candidate’s Name: Lori Parker

Current Occupation: Candidate

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): P.O. Box 21680 Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 271-5717, lori@electloriparker, loriparkerward1.com

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

I believe every resident and every business deserves prompt and responsive resolutions of their constituent concerns. If elected, I would ensure that accurate data is collected tracking the types of requests received by my office, the responsible District agency, the date the request was made, timeline for resolution, and direct follow-up with the responsible agency and constituent to facilitate timely resolution of requests for service. In addition, I would re-establish a constituent services fund for Ward 1 to assist our most vulnerable neighbors with emergency needs, and to facilitate community-building activities. This constituent services fund would be transparent and accountable to all Ward 1 residents and businesses.

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

I would support events and community-building activities that promote cultural awareness and sense of community celebrating our diversity. I would do so in partnership with all community members. It is critical that all community members have a voice and opportunity to participate in community-building efforts in Ward 1, including Howard University and its Caribbean Students Association.

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?

One of my top priorities is to support our small and local businesses in Ward 1, in ways that allow them to remain in the Ward and thrive. Our small and local businesses are critical to contributing to the economic and cultural diversity of the Ward by facilitating job creation



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and growth, and playing a vital role in community-building activities. Small, minority, veteran, and women owned businesses are critical to increasing the influence of our small and local businesses in political and civic engagement.

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

I would not propose or support any policy actions to improve the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in the District of Columbia without engaging and listening to representatives of the Caribbean community regarding their needs for action.

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 support creation of such an office.

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 need more information to answer this question.

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?

I support all of the District's efforts and policies to maintain our status as a sanctuary city, a city where our local residents – including those in our immigrant communities – feel protected by law-enforcement officials. We must continue to promote positive interactions between our local law-enforcement and all residents, regardless of immigration status, despite federal threats to withhold grants for vital public safety initiatives.

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 strongly believe that we must take a *Children First* approach in the District of Columbia. If elected, I will exercise the Council's oversight and budget responsibilities to prioritize the needs of our children, and the dedicated professionals who serve and support them. To ensure there is adequate funding allocated to our public schools to implement policies that improve the educational outcomes for our children, we must first identify the evidence-based practices and interventions that have been proven most effective in addressing the diverse



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social, emotional, and health needs of our students.

If elected, I will hold the Executive accountable through the Council's performance and budget oversight responsibilities for enforcing school policies in an equitable manner that responds appropriately to the diverse needs of our schools and our students. I will be a strong advocate for maintaining manageable class sizes, appropriate educational placements for students with special needs, interventions to better address the underlying causes of school truancy, and adequate funding to improve the school climate through training and necessary resources and supports for teachers and school-based behavioral health professionals.

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?

We can and must do more to build "A Ward 1 for All," fostering a sense of community in our diverse neighborhoods and bringing together neighbors of all cultures, backgrounds, and ages for activities and purposes where everyone can benefit and participate – including intergenerational opportunities. If elected, I would work with my D.C. Council colleagues, the Office on Aging, senior-lead organizations, and fully engage our long-term neighbors on fixed-income and middle income retirees to identify and advocate for more assistance to support our neighbors aging in place – including advocating for greater property tax relief and rental assistance for our seniors.

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

Having proudly served District residents for more than 25 years in the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of District government, I've seen first hand the struggles and challenges our residents face in all aspects of their lives.

If elected, my top three priorities would be: 1) accountability for ensuring prompt and responsive to all constituent concerns; 2) safe and stable neighborhoods (affordable housing and property tax relief, quality public schools and affordable child care, support of our local businesses, and a multi-systemic approach to public safety); and 3) access to greater economic opportunities (jobs and workforce development). I would address these priorities by 1) reestablishing a transparent and accountable constituents service fund in Ward 1, to address the emergency needs of our most vulnerable residents, and engage all residents and businesses in the community in community-building efforts; 2) holding District agencies accountable through Council performance and budget oversight; and 3) closely monitoring compliance of workforce hiring and training commitments set forth in tax abatement and tax credit legislation for new developments.