



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

Office Sought: Mayor of the District of Columbia

Candidate's Name: Ann C. Wilcox

Current Occupation: Lawyer

Party: DC Statehood Green Party

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1. Please explain your plan or approach to improve agency responsiveness and the quality of the District's constituent services. Constituent services must be ward-based, and sensitive to the needs of communities such as the Caribbean-American community. I would make every effort to work closely with the community, to be responsive to its concerns - including language access, education and other areas.
2. What specific actions have you initiated or will you take to support the Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C.? I am a lawyer who has been an elected member of the DC Board of Education (representing Ward 2, 1994-98), have served on the DC Commission for Women, and been active on statehood and other community issues. I have lived in areas of the city such as Mount Pleasant for over 30 years, and have supported community efforts throughout my career.
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 with all small businesses, the DC Government must enact tax breaks and find other ways of partnering with small business to ensure their success. I would convene a small business council, to hear from Caribbean-owned businesses and others, to determine how city government can best help them succeed.
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 ensure that DC is in fact a sanctuary city, one which is welcoming to all immigrants and new residents, and does everything possible to ensure their rights when they are here. I would work with law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and legal services groups to support the Caribbean immigrant population, and protect them as much as possible.
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



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an office? There should be a Caribbean Affairs office, which will help reach out to and define the local Caribbean community. This could easily be incorporated into the existing Mayoral community outreach structure.

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? There should be special tax breaks and supports for small businesses (e.g. those employing 25 or less employees). Information resources such as real estate and pro bono legal support could also be leveraged to help these small businesses.
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 strongly support the DREAMers and other immigrants who seek a better life in the U.S. As a lawyer, I have worked with DREAM act activists (on marches and other protest actions), as well as supporting Know Your Rights trainings. I would work to make DC a "true" Sanctuary City, and support broader Sanctuary DMV efforts.
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? Greater cultural sensitivity is required in our education system. As a former Board of Education member, I am aware of the importance of student policies which emphasize the "whole" student, including cultural and language access. We have come a long way in improving school facilities and buildings; however, more needs to be done to improve education outcomes; hire the best teachers and administrators; and teach "to the student" not "to the test."
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? Seniors must be supported in the aging process. Home repair and property tax breaks will help seniors stay in their homes. Aging services (including meals and health aides) will also help seniors age in place. DC needs a robust Office on Aging.
10. What issues are you most concerned about in your run for political office? Gentrification and the lack of affordable housing is the number one issue in my campaign: not enough is being done throughout the city to ensure that housing is affordable, and residents can remain in their homes and neighborhoods. The Mayor's Office is open to developers, but it SHOULD be open to residents seeking to purchase their apartment buildings; and those seeking to remain in the buildings and neighborhoods they grew up in. We should be building more affordable housing; developing local healthy food options in "food deserts" and ensuring quality education throughout the city. Cultural awareness to communities such as the Caribbean American community is one example of the wholistic approach I would take as mayor.