



# The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

[www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) District of Columbia – 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to [cpac.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:cpac.dmv@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

**Office Sought: Ward 1 Councilmember**

**Candidate's Name: Rashida Brown**

**Current Occupation: Policy Consultant - Founder and Principal of Seedling Strategies**

**Party: Democrat**

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

**Campaign Contact: Rashida Brown, Ward 1 DC Council Candidate**

**Email: [Rashida@Rashidaforward1.com](mailto:Rashida@Rashidaforward1.com)**

**Phone: 202-903-4561**

**[www.RashidaforWard1.com](http://www.RashidaforWard1.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

1. If elected, how would you proactively and consistently engage with Caribbean-American constituents, groups, local leaders, and organizations in your constituency?

I'll have an open-door policy for Caribbean-American constituents, groups, leaders, and organizations. Whether it's to help address an issue Ward 1, or any number of issues across the city, I'll work alongside you to solve the problem. I'll attend your meetings, hold quarterly meetings with the Caribbean-American community, and introduce/support any legislation community needs. I'll have your back.

2. How would your office address barriers Caribbean immigrants face when accessing public services such as healthcare, safe, affordable housing, education or social programs that disproportionately affect them?

Ward 1 is a community of immigrants. My council staff will include individuals who focus solely on constituent services and who are bi-lingual to assist residents in navigating assistance and other types of programs. I will also hold office hours in the Ward and regular town hall meetings because elected officials should be accessible to residents where they live, not at the council



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

| [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

building. My platform also promotes access to health care, safety, affordable housing and education:

- **Making Child Care Affordable and Accessible:** No family should pay more than 10% of income for child care, yet implementation of the Birth-to-Three law has stalled. Drawing on my experience as OSSE's Director of Policy and implementing DC's PKEEP program, I'll fight for dedicated revenue streams—not just annual appropriations—to fund Birth-to-Three at scale. I'll ensure the Pay Equity Fund reaches all early educators with livable wages, expand infant-toddler care capacity through facility grants and technical assistance, and streamline enrollment to eliminate bureaucratic barriers that particularly harm BIPOC families.
- **Ensuring Housing as a Human Right:** With 120+ unhoused individuals dying while matched to housing vouchers, our implementation failures are lethal. I'll demand accountability between DHS and DCHA through joint oversight hearings, establish maximum 30-day processing timelines for vouchers, and fund housing navigators and modernized technology to help residents secure housing. I'll restore ERAP to at least \$20 million annually and champion direct rental assistance that pays landlords immediately, preventing evictions before they happen.
- **Protecting DC's Most Vulnerable from Federal Overreach:** We're facing unprecedented federal attacks on our autonomy—from ICE raids terrorizing immigrant families to attempts to federalize MPD. As Ward 1 has DC's highest concentration of immigrant residents, I'll champion emergency legislation to close loopholes in the Sanctuary Values Act, explicitly prohibiting DC agencies from cooperating with ICE except where federally required. I'll allocate budget resources for know-your-rights trainings, legal defense funds, and rapid response networks. Through oversight hearings, I'll document federal abuses and hold agencies accountable for protecting residents rather than enabling persecution.



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

[www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

3. How do you ensure culturally responsive services for Caribbean-American residents across agencies (e.g., health, education, law enforcement, etc.)?

As a councilmember, it will be my role to ensure through the oversight process that the agencies of the Government of the District of Columbia are serving residents and providing culturally responsive services. In addition, I would hold council roundtable meetings to highlight and address any specific agencies that are falling short.

4. What initiatives will you lead and/or support that benefit Caribbean-American small business owners and workers, particularly in industries where they are heavily represented?

Through the council oversight process, I would ensure that the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs partners with government agencies such as D.C. Licensing and Procurement (DLCP) and DSLBD to provide small business support. I would also champion providing the Office with grantmaking authority and a budget for issuing grants to assist small business owners.

5. What support would you provide for Caribbean-American students and parents, including language assistance and help navigating the school system?

As mentioned above, providing constituent services will be an important component of my council office. Constituent services staff will be bi-lingual so they will be able to help Caribbean-American residents navigate the school system.

6. How would you advance partnerships with Caribbean-American community organizations to promote mental health, chronic disease prevention, or other wellness initiatives?

We need to ensure that the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs uses a variety of strategies to reach and inform Caribbean Americans because many constituents receive information differently. Many residents from the Caribbean travel quite frequently so a multi-prong approach is important to have when sharing information, including using social media, print, and electronic methods for distribution. Having a presence at the Mayor's events is



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

| [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

not enough, the Office needs to establish a stronger presence across the District.

7. How will you build trust and conduct robust oversight on local, law enforcement to protect the rights, security, and safety of Caribbean-American residents?

First and foremost, given the Trump administration's immigration policies, it is essential to reach Caribbean-Americans through their trusted stakeholders. As Ward 1 has DC's highest concentration of immigrant residents, I'll champion emergency legislation to close loopholes in the Sanctuary Values Act, explicitly prohibiting DC agencies from cooperating with ICE except where federally required. I'll allocate budget resources for know-your-rights trainings, legal defense funds, and rapid response networks. Through oversight hearings, I'll document federal abuses and hold agencies accountable for protecting residents rather than enabling persecution.

6. What programs, funding opportunities, or policy efforts will you champion that are aimed at improving outcomes for Caribbean-American communities?

My policy priorities for Caribbean American communities includes:

- Workshops to help residents complete affordable housing applications and navigate DOES.
- Improve community awareness of government services and how to access them.
- Expand small business support to address the increasing demand for resources and guidance on business financing and regulatory compliance.
- Expand access to culturally competent and affordable healthcare, including outreach and enrollment support, recognizing that Caribbean immigrants in DC have historically faced higher uninsured rates in some age groups and coverage gaps despite overall high insurance participation.



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

| [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

7. How will you ensure that the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs is fully funded, adequately staffed, and realizes its mission?

As Ward 1 councilmember, I will fight during the budget process to ensure this office is fully funded and has the staff it needs to deliver on its mission. The Office currently has a very small staff (just two people) and no grantmaking authority or funds. I would work with council colleagues to increase the Office's fiscal resources and staffing. Furthermore, considering the Caribbean establishments that call Ward 1 home, I would work with the Director of the OCCA and DSLBD on a special initiative that supports and restores Caribbean small businesses and arts and culture in Ward 1.

8. Washington, D.C. adopted the [Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022](#), which permits noncitizens who reside in D.C. for at least 30 days before the election and are at least 18 years old to vote for local offices and ballot initiatives. How will you support awareness and implementation of this law?

I strongly support the full and equitable implementation of the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act because our democracy is strongest when all residents who call D.C. home have a voice in the decisions that shape their daily lives. Considering the lessons learned as I observe the Board of Elections's implementation of their outreach plan for ranked choice voting, here are 3 ways that I would increase awareness and implementation of this law:

- Work closely with the DC Board of Elections to ensure clear, accessible, and culturally competent voter education materials are widely distributed—both online and in physical spaces like libraries, schools, and community centers.
- Fund grassroots outreach efforts by investing in trusted messengers—local nonprofits, tenant associations, and faith institutions—to host workshops, voter registration drives, and “know



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

| [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

your rights” sessions tailored to immigrant communities.

- Integrate voter education into existing city services, such as through the Department of Human Services, public schools, and workforce programs, so residents receive information where they already access support.

Furthermore, this law is under attack by Republicans in Congress. The only way to address this infringement is through statehood. I'll organize with Free DC and the statehood movement to build grassroots power. Federal overreach proves why we need statehood—we cannot remain second-class citizens subject to congressional whims. I'll mobilize Ward 1 residents to join protests, lobby Congress, and build the political pressure necessary for our liberation. Ward 1 needs a fighter who'll use every tool—legislative, legal, and organizing—to protect our democracy and our neighbors.