



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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

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 by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

Office Sought: Ward 1 DC Council

Candidate's Name: Jackie Reyes Yanes

Current Occupation: Community Advocate

Party: Democrat

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

Campaign Office: 707 Kenyon Street NW, Washington DC 20009

Phone: 202-413-7832

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

Ward 1 is one of the most diverse communities in the District, and that diversity is its strength. I began my career serving Ward 1 residents under the late Councilmember Jim Graham, where I built lasting relationships by being present, responsive, and accessible. Most recently, as Director of the Mayor's Office on Community Affairs, I oversaw a cluster of community-facing offices, including the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs, working directly with Caribbean leaders and organizations across DC. That combination of Ward-level relationships and citywide leadership shapes how I will serve. I will maintain consistent engagement through community meetings, faith-based outreach, small business visits, and direct partnerships with Caribbean organizations. My office will be visible, accessible, and rooted in trust.



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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?

In Ward 1, I have worked directly with residents navigating housing instability, healthcare access, and complex government systems. I understand how frustrating these barriers can be. My approach is hands-on and solution-focused. My office will prioritize strong constituent services, helping Caribbean immigrants connect to housing resources, healthcare, and education supports while improving coordination across agencies. I will also continue advocating for language access and culturally competent services so residents can access what they need with dignity.

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

Culturally responsive service starts with listening and representation. In Ward 1, I have worked alongside communities from across the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa, and I understand the importance of meeting people where they are. I will use my oversight role to ensure agencies hire staff who reflect the communities they serve, invest in cultural competency training, and deliver services in ways that respect language, culture, and lived experience. This is about making government work better for everyone.

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?

Ward 1's corridors, including Georgia Avenue, are home to many Caribbean-owned businesses that are vital to our local economy and culture. I will support access to capital, technical assistance, and storefront stabilization to help these businesses grow and remain in the community. I will also work to restore DC's Caribbean Festival in full to Georgia Avenue and Ward 1, recognizing its importance not just as a



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cultural celebration but as an economic driver for local businesses. Supporting small businesses means investing in both opportunity and community identity.

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

As a DCPS graduate, a mother, and a grandmother, I understand how important it is for families to feel supported in our schools. In Ward 1, I have helped families navigate challenges related to housing, immigration, and access to services so their children can stay connected to their education. I will expand language access, strengthen partnerships between schools and community organizations, and ensure families have clear, accessible pathways to advocate for their children and access resources.

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

Strong communities are built through strong partnerships. In Ward 1, I have worked with community organizations and faith leaders to connect residents to services and support. I will continue that work by partnering with Caribbean organizations to expand access to mental health services, preventative care, and wellness programs. These efforts must be culturally relevant and delivered in trusted spaces so residents feel comfortable accessing them.

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?

Trust is built through consistency and accountability. In Ward 1, I have worked closely with residents to address public safety concerns while



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ensuring people are treated with dignity and respect. As Councilmember, I will prioritize oversight that promotes transparency, prevents discrimination, and strengthens relationships between law enforcement and the community. Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.

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

My priorities are real affordable housing, universal childcare, and getting things done for residents. These priorities directly impact Caribbean-American families in Ward 1. I will also advocate for targeted investments in community-based organizations and cultural initiatives, including restoring the Caribbean Festival to Georgia Avenue. I believe in aligning resources with community needs and ensuring those investments deliver real, measurable results.

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

I understand how important it is for this office to be a strong connector between government and the Caribbean community. As Councilmember, I will use the budget process and oversight authority to ensure it is properly funded, staffed, and held accountable to its mission. That includes working closely with community leaders to ensure the office is responsive and delivering meaningful support.

10. 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?



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Ward 1 is home to many residents who are directly impacted by this law. I have spent my career engaging communities in civic participation, and I will continue that work by partnering with Caribbean organizations, faith leaders, and trusted messengers to ensure residents understand their rights. This includes multilingual outreach, voter education, and direct engagement so every eligible resident feels informed and empowered to participate.