



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: Council At-Large

Candidate's Name: Dyana Forester

Current Occupation: Labor Relations

Party: Democratic

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

www.Dyanafordc.com

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

As a Black and Mexican woman, daughter of an immigrant father, lifelong DC resident, and labor leader, I know that communities must be seen, heard, and meaningfully included in the decisions that shape their lives. My approach to governance will be rooted in year-round engagement, not election-cycle outreach.

I will establish a **Caribbean Community Advisory Council** made up of residents, faith leaders, youth advocates, labor representatives, educators, and small business owners to provide direct policy input to my office. In addition, I will host **quarterly community forums and listening sessions in neighborhoods across the District** with strong Caribbean-American populations, ensuring residents have direct access to me and my staff.

I believe in **participatory democracy**, which means not only listening, but giving communities real power in shaping budgets, policy priorities, and oversight.

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?



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Far too many immigrant families face systems that are fragmented, difficult to navigate, and too often indifferent to their needs. My office will prioritize **language access, culturally competent service delivery, and community-based navigation support.**

I support expanding neighborhood-based resource hubs where residents can access housing support, healthcare enrollment, legal assistance, and school services in one place. I will also advocate for stronger affordable housing protections, including **rent stabilization, tenant legal defense, and investments in community land trusts** to prevent displacement.

No family should be shut out of essential services because of bureaucracy, language barriers, or immigration status concerns.

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

Culturally responsive government requires accountability. I will push for **mandatory anti-bias and cultural competency training across all agencies**, including schools, public health systems, and public safety institutions.

I also support requiring agencies to collect **disaggregated demographic data** so Caribbean-American communities are not erased within broader racial categories. When communities are invisible in the data, they are often invisible in policymaking.

Equally important, agencies must hire staff and leadership that reflect the communities they serve.

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?

As a labor leader who has spent nearly two decades fighting for workers and local economic justice, I know that small businesses and workers rise together.

I will support **public banking and community lending initiatives** that expand access to affordable capital for Black, immigrant, and Caribbean-owned businesses. Too many entrepreneurs are locked out of traditional lending systems.

I will also fight for:



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- commercial rent stabilization for small businesses
- technical assistance and licensing support
- city procurement opportunities for minority-owned firms
- stronger wage theft enforcement
- expanded paid leave and worker protections

Many Caribbean-American workers are heavily represented in healthcare support, hospitality, transportation, childcare, and service industries, and they deserve economic policies that protect both business ownership and labor rights.

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

As a DCPS parent and lifelong advocate for equitable education, I know how overwhelming school systems can be for families.

I support expanding **multilingual family engagement specialists**, stronger school-community partnerships, and neighborhood education resource centers that help parents navigate enrollment, special education services, transportation, and after-school programming.

I also believe our curriculum should reflect the histories and contributions of Caribbean communities so students see themselves represented in the classroom.

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

Community-based organizations are often the most trusted messengers, particularly in immigrant communities. I will advocate for **direct city grants and multi-year funding opportunities** for Caribbean-led health and wellness organizations.

This includes investments in:

- culturally responsive mental health services
- maternal health supports



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- diabetes and hypertension prevention
- nutrition access programs
- trauma-informed youth services

Public health must be community-led and sustained, not dependent on temporary pilot funding.

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 accountability and transparency.

I support strong **civilian oversight of law enforcement**, public reporting on stop-and-frisk data, use-of-force incidents, and outcomes by race, ethnicity, and nationality where possible.

I also believe we must invest in **community violence interruption, mental health crisis response teams, and restorative justice programs** so public safety does not rely solely on policing.

As the daughter of a retired DC police officer, I understand the importance of safety. But safety must also mean dignity, civil rights, and freedom from profiling.

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

I will champion targeted investments in:

- affordable housing
- immigrant legal defense
- workforce development
- youth summer employment
- maternal and public health
- neighborhood business corridors

I also strongly support **participatory budgeting**, allowing Caribbean-American communities to directly help decide how city funds are spent in their neighborhoods.



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Budgets are moral documents, and our spending should reflect our values.

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

I will use the Council's oversight authority and budget process to ensure the office has the staff, resources, and accountability measures necessary to succeed.

This includes requiring:

- annual performance hearings
- measurable goals and reporting
- community advisory input
- protected budget allocations

An office created to serve the community must have the tools to do so effectively.

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?

Democracy works best when every resident who contributes to our city has a voice in shaping it.

I strongly support robust implementation of this law through **multilingual voter education campaigns**, community partnerships, and outreach through schools, libraries, faith institutions, and immigrant-serving nonprofits.

As someone who believes deeply in DC democracy and DC statehood, I see this as part of a broader commitment to inclusive civic participation and resident empowerment.