



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: D.C. Council At-Large

Candidate's Name: Lisa Raymond

Current Occupation: Major Gifts Officer at Covenant House Greater Washington

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information: Peter Whouley, 978-882-1150, peter.whouley@gmail.com

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

Caribbean-American communities are a vital part of what makes DC such a remarkable city, and I am committed to being a Councilmember who is genuinely present and accessible. I have spent 30 years listening to and working alongside DC residents, which I will continue if I am elected. I look forward to building ongoing relationships with Caribbean-American leaders, organizations, and neighbors across all eight wards, and I will make sure my office is a place where this community always feels heard and valued.

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?

I know that navigating DC's public services can be challenging, and I understand that Caribbean immigrants often face additional barriers that make it even harder. As a Councilmember, I am committed to ensuring that the DC government works for everyone, including immigrant families who deserve access to the same quality services as any other resident. I will always be open to hearing from community members about where the system is falling short and to working toward solutions that make a real difference in people's lives.



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

Every resident of DC deserves to be treated with dignity and respect by their city government, and that includes Caribbean-American residents interacting with agencies across health, education, and public safety. I believe that government works best when it is responsive to the communities it serves, and I will bring that value with me to the Council. I am committed to staying engaged with Caribbean-American community members and organizations to understand where improvements are needed and to using my role to advocate for better outcomes.

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?

Caribbean-American entrepreneurs and workers are an important part of DC's economy and the fabric of our neighborhoods. I have a deep appreciation for the role small businesses play in our communities, and I am committed to being a Councilmember who supports the conditions that allow them to thrive. I will work to reduce bureaucratic barriers that make it difficult for businesses to locate here, and to grow. I look forward to continued conversations with Caribbean-American business owners and workers about the challenges they face and how city government can be a better partner.

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

As a former President of the DC State Board of Education and Chair of the Board of Trustees of a charter school, I know firsthand how complex and at times overwhelming the DC school system can be for any family, let alone those navigating it in a second language or in an unfamiliar cultural context. I will champion robust language access for all DC schools communications, ensuring that parents who speak Haitian Creole, Spanish, French, or other Caribbean languages receive timely, accurate translations of enrollment documents, IEP notices, discipline policies, and school choice materials. I will also push for DC to expand its community school partnerships so that schools serving high concentrations of Caribbean-American students can offer wraparound services. I believe in the critical



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importance of family voices, and I will work to ensure Caribbean-American parents have real seats at the table in school governance and planning.

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

Community organizations are often the most trusted and effective partners when it comes to health and wellness, and Caribbean-American organizations do incredible work in this space. I have great respect for the role these groups play, and as a Councilmember I am committed to supporting and elevating that work. I look forward to building relationships with these organizations and to being an advocate for the health and wellbeing of Caribbean-American residents 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?

Every DC resident deserves to feel safe and to be treated fairly by law enforcement, and that includes Caribbean-American residents. I take public safety seriously, and I also take seriously the importance of trust between communities and the institutions that serve them. As a Councilmember, I will be accessible to Caribbean-American residents who have concerns in this area and I will be committed to making sure their voices are part of the broader conversation about public safety in our city.

Recent DC Council oversight has raised serious concerns about cooperation between local agencies and federal immigration enforcement. I support the efforts of the Councilmembers who are pushing to close loopholes and strengthen limits on MPD's involvement with ICE. We need clear guardrails, transparency, and accountability so that local law enforcement is never used in ways that erode trust or put Caribbean-American and other immigrant communities at risk.

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

I am committed to being a Councilmember who fights for all of DC's residents, including the Caribbean-American community. I believe that when immigrant communities are supported and empowered, the whole city is stronger. I look



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forward to working with C-PAC and Caribbean-American leaders to understand their priorities and to being a consistent advocate for this community's needs in the budget process and across the Council's work.

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

The Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs plays an important role in connecting DC government with one of our most vibrant communities, and I want to see it succeed. As a Councilmember, I will pay attention to how this office is resourced and supported, and I am committed to being a partner in ensuring that it can effectively serve Caribbean-American residents. I welcome the opportunity to engage with C-PAC on this issue.

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?

The Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act is an important part of DC's ongoing conversation about representation and civic participation. I look forward to learning more about how implementation has been progressing and to hearing from community members about their experiences. I am committed to making sure residents have access to accurate information about their rights, and I welcome the opportunity to engage further with C-PAC and the Caribbean-American community on this and related issues.