



# 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: DC Mayor**

**Candidate's Name: Janeese Lewis George**

**Current Occupation:**

**Party: Democrat**

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

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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?

Georgia Avenue has long been the cultural and economic center of DC's Caribbean community, anchored by generations of immigrants who have opened businesses and laid down roots in Ward 4 neighborhoods such as Brightwood and Manor Park. As Ward 4 Councilmember, I have a record of consistent, year-round engagement— showing up at community events, supporting small businesses, and maintaining strong relationships with residents, faith leaders, and local organizations.

As Mayor, I will continue this approach by regularly participating in Caribbean-American community spaces and convenings, including events hosted by organizations like the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Washington DC, the DC Caribbean Bar Association, and the DC Caribbean Community Alliance. I will hold ongoing listening sessions with Caribbean-American leaders and ensure that engagement is not one-time or transactional, but sustained and rooted in trust.

To make this engagement consistent and accountable, I will:



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- Host an annual Caribbean-focused community listening session.
- Direct the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs to maintain a standing advisory group of community leaders, small business owners, and advocates
- Ensure my administration is visibly present at major cultural and civic events across the city
- Establish clear feedback loops so concerns raised in community spaces are tracked and reflected in policy and agency action

I will also build on and expand existing programming by making Caribbean American Heritage Month a signature, citywide initiative. This includes coordinating events across agencies, partnering with community organizations to host cultural and educational programming, and ensuring strong city support for celebrations that highlight Caribbean history, culture, and contributions to DC. I will also ensure continued city support for events like the Caribbean Cultural Concert and bringing back the DC Caribbean Carnival, which are not only cultural celebrations but important economic drivers for our city.

I believe our values should be reflected in how we invest public resources. My administration will work with local Caribbean-American community organizations to prioritize sourcing from Caribbean-owned businesses for Caribbean city events and programming, both to reinvest directly in the community and to showcase the rich culinary and entrepreneurial traditions that are part of the District's Caribbean-American community identity.

As a graduate of Howard University School of Law, I also recognize the role institutions like Howard play in shaping Caribbean and Black diaspora leadership, and I will continue to build partnerships across those networks to connect residents to opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, and public service.

## 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?

Caribbean immigrant families in DC face real barriers—rising housing costs, navigating complex government systems, and accessing services that are not always designed with their needs in mind across healthcare, education, and social programs.

A key part of addressing these barriers is ensuring language access. Caribbean communities in DC are linguistically diverse, including speakers of English, Spanish, French, and Creoles, and too



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many families face challenges simply because information and services are not accessible in the languages they use every day. As Mayor, I will expand language access across all agencies, ensure materials are translated, and strengthen interpretation services so residents can fully access the services they are entitled to.

I will also take a clear stand to protect immigrant residents by ending cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE, and by working with our Attorney General and federal partners to defend Home Rule and the rights of DC residents.

In education, I will ensure that all students and families—including Caribbean-American families—can fully access and navigate the school system. My plan includes unifying the truancy system under one agency so families are not bounced between systems, expanding afterschool programming in all eight wards, and increasing access to school-based mental health services, special education support, and fully staffed schools so every student has what they need to succeed.

I will also address one of the biggest barriers facing working families—childcare. Through my plan for universal affordable childcare, we will ensure that no family pays more than 7% of their income on childcare, expand access across neighborhoods, and invest in the childcare workforce so families have reliable, high-quality options.

Finally, my housing agenda—focused on building more affordable homes, strengthening tenant protections, and expanding pathways to homeownership—will directly support Caribbean-American families who are disproportionately renters and at risk of displacement.

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

Culturally responsive services are essential to ensuring government works for everyone, and that requires more than intention—it requires systems, accountability, and partnership.

As Mayor, I will expand language access across all agencies and ensure services are available in the languages spoken by Caribbean residents, including English, Spanish, French, and Creole. This includes translating written materials, strengthening interpretation services, and ensuring residents can access services in their preferred language across healthcare, education, housing, and public safety.



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I will also work with the Mayor's Office on Caribbean Community Affairs to coordinate efforts across agencies so that cultural competency is not siloed, but embedded throughout city government. Agencies will be expected to meet clear cultural competency standards, and I will require regular training and evaluation to ensure services are responsive to the communities they serve.

Partnership is critical. My administration will work closely with trusted community-based organizations—including groups like the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce, the DC Caribbean Bar Association, and the DC Caribbean Community Alliance—to help design and deliver services in ways that reflect community needs and builds trust.

In addition, I will prioritize hiring and retaining a public workforce that reflects the diversity of DC and strengthen pipelines into public service so residents see themselves represented in the agencies that serve them.

Finally, I will establish accountability measures so we can track whether residents are actually able to access services effectively, including monitoring language access compliance, service utilization, and community feedback. A culturally responsive government is not just about access—it is about ensuring that services work in practice for the people they are meant to 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?

Caribbean-owned businesses are a vital part of DC's economy and culture, particularly in industries like food service, construction, retail, and personal care. These businesses are often family-run, immigrant-founded, and deeply rooted in the communities they serve.

As Mayor, I will reduce red tape and lower costs for small businesses by creating a one-stop shop for licensing and permitting, expanding tax credits, and making more commercial space available, including pop-ups and incubators in vacant properties. I will also take steps to address rising commercial rents by expanding lease support and prioritizing access to affordable space for small businesses in key corridors.

In addition, I will strengthen pathways to capital and contracts by reforming and expanding the Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) program so that Caribbean-owned businesses can more



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easily access DC government contracts and grow into long-term, sustainable enterprises. I will also ensure that city investments in economic development prioritize small, locally owned businesses—not just large developers.

Once again, partnership is key. I will work closely with organizations like the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Washington DC to expand access to business training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities, and to ensure that programs reach entrepreneurs at every stage—from startup to expansion.

I am also committed to supporting the workers who power these industries. That means strengthening wage theft enforcement, protecting immigrant workers, expanding workforce training and apprenticeship programs, and ensuring that workers in sectors like hospitality, construction, and caregiving have access to good jobs with fair pay and pathways to advancement.

We know what is possible when these systems work. Businesses like Jerk@Nite—founded by a Howard University graduate and grown from a dorm room into a national enterprise—demonstrate the potential of Caribbean entrepreneurship in our region. My goal is to make DC a place where more of these businesses can start, grow, and stay, and where the workers behind them can build stable, dignified careers.

### 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, I understand the importance of strong schools and accessible support systems for families.

As Mayor, I will ensure that Caribbean-American students and parents can fully access and navigate the school system. A key part of this is expanding language access in schools by providing translated materials, strengthening interpretation services, and ensuring families can communicate with teachers and school staff in the languages they use at home, including English, Spanish, French, and Creole. Families should not have to struggle to understand or navigate a system that is meant to support their children.

I will also strengthen family engagement by investing in school-based supports that help families navigate the system more easily. This includes unifying the truancy system under one agency so



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families are not bounced between systems, ensuring schools are fully staffed with counselors, social workers, and support staff, and expanding access to school-based mental health and special education services so every student has the support they need to succeed.

For working families, I will expand afterschool programming in all eight wards, so that every District child has a safe, nurturing program to go to if they so choose after the school day ends.

I will expand career pathways for students by investing in career and technical education, apprenticeships, and early exposure to workforce opportunities. This includes creating stronger connections between schools, local employers, and institutions like Howard University so students can access real opportunities that lead to stable, good-paying jobs.

Finally, I will partner with trusted community-based organizations to help families navigate the school system, ensuring parents have access to the information, support, and advocacy they need. Our goal is not just to provide services, but to make sure families can successfully use them and feel empowered in their children's education.

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

Improving health outcomes requires strong partnerships with trusted community organizations and a public health approach that meets people where they are.

As a Councilmember, I have supported investments in community-based violence prevention, mental health services, and programs that address the root causes of harm, including trauma, economic instability, and lack of access to care. I've seen firsthand that when services are rooted in community and trust, outcomes improve. These investments reflect my belief that improving health and safety outcomes requires working through trusted, community-based partners.

As Mayor, I will build on this approach by investing in community-based mental health services and working in partnership with Caribbean organizations, faith institutions, and local leaders to deliver culturally competent care in spaces where residents already feel comfortable. This includes supporting programs that bring mental health services into community settings, reducing stigma, and expanding access to care that reflects the lived experiences of Caribbean residents.



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I will also expand efforts to improve chronic disease prevention efforts, including conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease, which disproportionately impact Black and Caribbean communities. This will include community-based education, screenings, and prevention programs delivered in partnership with trusted organizations, as well as improving access to affordable, high-quality healthcare.

To strengthen these partnerships, I will provide more consistent funding and technical support for community-based organizations so they can expand their reach and sustain their work. I will also ensure stronger coordination between public health agencies and community partners so services are not fragmented and residents can access care more easily.

In addition, I will invest in a diverse health workforce and support pathways for DC residents—including Caribbean residents—to enter healthcare and community health roles, helping ensure services are both culturally competent and community-rooted.

By building on the community-centered investments I've supported on the Council, and deepening partnerships with trusted organizations, we can reduce stigma, improve access to care, and ensure services reach the people who need them most.

### 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?

Public safety must be rooted in trust, accountability, and fairness—and that requires both strong oversight and meaningful investment in community-based solutions.

As a Councilmember, I have been a consistent advocate for a comprehensive approach to public safety that prioritizes prevention, intervention, and enforcement. I have supported investments in violence interruption programs, community-based safety initiatives, and mental health services, while also pushing for stronger oversight and transparency in policing. I believe that safety is built not only through enforcement, but through trust and stability in our communities.

As Mayor, I will implement a comprehensive public safety strategy that addresses prevention, intervention, and enforcement. It's an approach I took as Ward 4 Councilmember when addressing crime on Kennedy Street and in Petworth, and one I developed during my time as a prosecutor at the DC Office of the Attorney General. As Mayor, the entirety of my government will play a role in public safety—not just one agency.



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A key component of this strategy is the creation of Community Hubs—places to bring people and resources together. DC is resource-rich but often coordination-poor, and these Hubs will help change that. By building on existing infrastructure and partnerships, I will establish Community Hubs in all eight wards that serve families and young people as safe, welcoming, and enriching spaces. These Hubs will also connect residents to job programs, mental health services, and other critical supports, in partnership with community-based organizations. Thriving, well-resourced communities are the safest communities.

As Mayor, I will also strengthen oversight of law enforcement by increasing transparency, improving data reporting, and ensuring independent accountability mechanisms are empowered and resourced. I will continue investing in community-based safety strategies that prevent violence before it happens, including youth engagement and access to mental health and social services.

For Caribbean-American residents—many of whom come from immigrant backgrounds—trust in government is essential. I will end cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE so that no resident fears interacting with public safety agencies or reporting a crime. Public safety depends on trust, and trust cannot exist when communities fear deportation or surveillance.

I will also ensure that officers receive strong cultural competency training and that agencies are responsive to the communities they serve. At the same time, I will work to recruit and retain a more diverse public safety workforce that reflects DC's communities.

Finally, I will strengthen coordination between public safety agencies, public health systems, and community organizations so that responses to safety challenges are comprehensive and effective. By combining accountability with prevention and community partnership, we can build a safer city where all residents—including Caribbean-American communities—feel protected, respected, and able to thrive.

Safety is not just about enforcement—it is about ensuring every resident feels secure, respected, and able to call on their government without fear.

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



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Caribbean communities in DC are not one-dimensional—they include entrepreneurs building small businesses, working families navigating childcare and shift work, immigrants accessing services in multiple languages, and young people building their futures. These realities are connected, and our policies must reflect that.

As Mayor, I will take a holistic approach to improving outcomes for Caribbean-American communities by investing across the full ecosystem. That includes expanding affordable housing and preventing displacement, supporting small business growth, creating pathways to good jobs, investing in childcare and afterschool programs, and strengthening culturally competent services across agencies.

A key part of this work will be ensuring that city funding reaches Caribbean communities more directly and consistently. This includes:

- Increasing funding for community-based organizations delivering health, education, and social services
- Expanding small business grants and technical assistance for entrepreneurs, including Caribbean entrepreneurs
- Providing capacity-building support so smaller organizations can successfully apply for and manage city funding
- Ensuring equitable access to grants through language-accessible applications and outreach

I will also align these investments with broader economic and community development strategies, including reforming the Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) program, expanding workforce training and apprenticeship programs, and creating stronger pipelines between schools, employers, and institutions like Howard University.

Finally, I will ensure that a robustly funded and fully empowered Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs plays a central role in coordinating these efforts, tracking outcomes, and holding agencies accountable for delivering results.

Our goal is not just inclusion—it is ensuring Caribbean communities have the resources, power, and opportunity to thrive.



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

The creation of the Office on Caribbean Community Affairs was an important step, but it has not yet reached its full potential in visibility, resourcing, and influence. As Mayor, I will ensure the office is robustly funded, fully staffed, and empowered to play a central role in city government—not just as an outreach entity, but as a driver of policy and results. That means embedding the office in budget and policymaking processes, so it has a direct role in shaping investments and priorities that affect Caribbean communities.

I will establish clear goals and accountability measures so the office delivers measurable outcomes, including annual reporting on access to services, business support, and community engagement. The office will also play a coordinating role across agencies to ensure that initiatives related to housing, economic development, education, and health are aligned and effectively reaching Caribbean residents.

To strengthen its impact, I will ensure the office has the staffing and resources needed to support:

- Dedicated community engagement and outreach staff across multiple wards
- Small business and economic development coordination
- Language access and communications support
- Partnerships with health, education, and workforce agencies

I will also ensure the office works in direct partnership with local Caribbean-American organizations so that the District government is supporting and scaling existing community infrastructure, rather than operating in isolation.

Finally, I am proud of the work Director Natalee Snider has done with only two full-time staff members. I will expand the office's visibility and accessibility by ensuring it hosts regular public events, participates in community programming, and serves as a clear entry point for Caribbean residents seeking support, resources, or connection to city services. A strong, well-resourced Office on Caribbean Community Affairs will ensure that Caribbean communities are not just represented—but are actively shaping the policies and investments that impact their lives.



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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?

I strongly support expanding democratic participation and ensuring all eligible residents can take part in DC's local democracy.

As Mayor, I will take a proactive, citywide approach to implementing the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act by ensuring that awareness, access, and trust are built into every stage of outreach. Too many residents are eligible but unaware of their rights, and closing that gap must be a priority.

First, I will work in close partnership with the DC Board of Elections and the Mayor's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs to launch a sustained, multilingual public education campaign. This will include clear, accessible materials in the languages spoken by Caribbean communities—including English, Spanish, French, and Creole—and distribution through schools, community centers, faith institutions, small businesses, and cultural events like Caribbean American Heritage Month and DC Caribbean Carnival.

I will also ensure that city agencies integrate voter awareness into existing touchpoints with residents. This includes providing information through schools, workforce programs, small business support programs, and social service agencies so that residents encounter this information in spaces they already use. I will also prioritize training for frontline staff across agencies so they can accurately inform residents about their eligibility and rights, and ensure that outreach efforts are consistent and coordinated across government.

Finally, I will ensure that implementation is paired with trust-building. Residents must feel safe participating in local democracy, and that means clear communication that local voting does not impact immigration status, as well as strong protections against misinformation and confusion.

By combining multilingual outreach, community partnerships, and coordinated implementation across agencies, we can ensure that every eligible resident understands their rights and has a real opportunity to participate in shaping the future of our city.