



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: **Mayor**

Candidate's Name: **Gary Goodweather**

Current Occupation: **Business Owner, Full-Time Candidate**

Party: **Democrat**

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

1240 9th ST NW | 202.909.5354 | info@goodweatherdc.com | www.goodweatherfordc.com

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

Washington, DC is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Caribbean-American communities in the country. That community is woven into the fabric of this city through faith institutions, business corridors, cultural organizations, and civic leadership. A Goodweather administration will treat the Caribbean-American community as a governing partner, not just a constituency to address during election season.

My approach starts with leadership. I will engage Caribbean-American organizations, civic leaders, faith communities, and business owners directly and consistently. That means regular meetings with organizations like C-PAC, participation in Caribbean cultural events and celebrations, and structured listening sessions where community priorities shape policy. I do not believe in top-down outreach. I believe in showing up, listening first, and building relationships that outlast any single issue or election cycle.

Specifically, my administration will:

Establish a Mayor's Advisory Council on Caribbean-American Affairs, composed of community leaders, business owners, professionals, and cultural figures who meet regularly with my office and have direct input on policy decisions affecting the community.



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Ensure Caribbean-American-owned small businesses have access to city contracts, technical assistance, and capital through our economic development programs. DC's Main Streets corridors are home to Caribbean-owned restaurants, shops, and service providers. My administration will invest in those corridors and treat them as the economic engines they are.

Protect immigrant residents from federal overreach. Many Caribbean-American families in DC face real fear from federal enforcement actions. I will defend DC's sanctuary protections, fund community health worker programs embedded in trusted institutions so families are not afraid to access care, and ensure multilingual outreach across city agencies.

Create pathways to careers and civic participation through Capital Corps, our citywide service program that connects 5,000 DC residents to structured training, mentorship, and employment. Caribbean-American youth and newcomers will have a direct pipeline into public service and professional development.

Appoint Caribbean-American leaders to senior positions in city government. Representation matters, and it starts at the top.

I am a Washingtonian who has spent my career building in this city. I know that the Caribbean-American community needs a mayor who governs with the community year-round. I will be that mayor.

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 immigrants in DC face barriers that are both structural and fear-driven. The structural barriers include language access gaps, confusing agency processes, and programs designed without immigrant communities in mind. The fear-driven barriers are newer and more urgent: federal enforcement actions have made families afraid to interact with any government office, including clinics, schools, and housing agencies. U.S. citizen children are being kept home because their parents are terrified of contact with the system. My administration will address both.



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Healthcare. DC Health needs dedicated funding for community health worker programs embedded in trusted institutions: schools, houses of worship, cultural organizations, and community health centers that Caribbean-American families already know and trust. Families who will not walk into a government building will engage with a health worker at their church or their child's school. This means multilingual outreach staff, culturally competent care navigation, and partnerships with providers who reflect the communities they serve. The substance use and mental health needs of immigrant communities also require culturally informed approaches. Trauma does not always present the way American clinical models expect. Our health system must meet people where they are, in language and in practice.

Housing. Nearly 45 percent of DC renters are already cost-burdened. For Caribbean immigrant families, the crisis compounds: language barriers make lease terms harder to understand, predatory landlords target tenants who are afraid to report violations, and homeownership programs like HPAP are administered so poorly that rules change mid-year and families with ratified contracts are left stranded. My Affordable DC plan builds 50,000 new homes by 2032, with permanently affordable units through community land trusts and smarter inclusionary zoning. I will also ensure that housing counseling and homebuyer assistance programs operate with multilingual staff and stable, predictable rules so immigrant families can plan around them.

Education. Immigrant families need to know their children are safe at school. My administration will enforce clear sanctuary protections at every DC public school. No school will be a site for federal enforcement activity. Beyond safety, my FoundationDC education plan expands dual language and bilingual programs so more students graduate fluent in two languages, expands Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 seats, and puts a full-time nurse and mental health clinician in every school. My Capital Corps program has a Youth Track that gives every student a career development plan by 10th grade, creating structured pathways to employment and civic participation.

Social programs. Across every city agency, my administration will implement enforceable sanctuary protections and train frontline staff so no resident has to choose between accessing a benefit and protecting their family. I will launch a citywide Know Your Rights campaign so every resident understands their legal protections. A legal defense fund will provide representation for residents targeted by federal enforcement. And I will ensure that city agency



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communications, applications, and outreach materials are available in the languages DC residents actually speak.

These are not separate problems. They are one problem: a city government that has not organized itself around everyone who lives here.

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

Culturally responsive services start with who is in the room when decisions are made. If Caribbean-American residents are not represented in agency leadership, advisory roles, and frontline positions, services will not reflect their needs.

First, I will ensure hiring practices across agencies prioritize multilingual, culturally competent staff. Representation is not symbolic. It determines whether a health intake form asks the right questions, whether a school counselor understands a family's context, and whether a police officer builds trust or destroys it.

Second, I will establish a Mayor's Advisory Council on Caribbean-American Affairs with direct input on policy across agencies. This council will include community leaders, business owners, health professionals, educators, and cultural figures. I will meet regularly with my office and agency directors.

Third, agency-level training must go beyond check-the-box diversity sessions. DC Health staff need to understand that Caribbean immigrant communities carry distinct health profiles, cultural approaches to mental health, and language needs that differ from broader Latino or Black populations. DCPS educators need training on the educational backgrounds and expectations of Caribbean-American families. MPD officers need to understand that trust with immigrant communities is built through consistent, transparent policy, not community relations events.

Fourth, I will require city agencies to collect and report demographic data that distinguishes Caribbean-American residents within broader categories. You cannot deliver responsive services to a community you do not count. Disaggregated data will drive resource allocation, program design, and accountability.



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Finally, all agency communications, applications, and outreach will be available in the languages Caribbean-American residents actually speak, including Haitian Creole, French, and Spanish.

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 small business owners and workers are concentrated in industries where the city's failures hit hardest: food service, healthcare, construction, transportation, home care, and retail. Permitting takes too long. Procurement shuts out small firms. Transit costs eat into take-home pay. My administration will change each of these.

DC's small business permitting process is slow and punishing for entrepreneurs without lawyers or consultants navigating the bureaucracy. My administration will streamline permitting timelines so a small business owner is not waiting months to open their doors. I will expand micro-grant programs for immigrant-owned businesses through DC Main Streets organizations, which are the city's best infrastructure for connecting entrepreneurs to vacant storefronts, capital, and corridor-level support.

DC's procurement process is biased toward large contractors who can afford to navigate the system. Small and local businesses get shut out. I will reduce duplicative review layers, shorten procurement timelines, and set measurable targets for local business participation so Caribbean-American-owned firms can compete for city contracts on a level playing field.

Caribbean-American workers in healthcare, home care, food service, and construction need a city that lowers the cost of getting to work and protects them on the job. Fare-Free DC eliminates transit fares for all DC residents, saving regular riders roughly \$1,000 a year. That is money back in the pockets of workers who depend on Metrobus and rail. My administration will also defend worker protections, enforce wage theft laws, and expand access to workforce training through my Capital Corps program, which connects 5,000 DC residents to structured training, mentorship, and career pathways.

I will increase Main Streets funding to put storefront matching staff on the ground and match vacant commercial spaces with locally owned businesses.



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

First, language assistance. Every DCPS school and public charter school will have access to multilingual staff and translated materials in the languages Caribbean-American families actually speak. Enrollment forms, parent communications, and IEP meetings should never be English-only by default.

Second, school navigation. I will expand parent liaison programs that connect immigrant families to school resources, special education services, and enrollment options. These liaisons will be embedded in schools with significant Caribbean-American populations and trained to understand the specific educational backgrounds and expectations families bring.

Third, programming. My Educate DC education plan expands dual language and bilingual programs so more DC students graduate fluent in two languages. I will expand Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 seats, put a full-time nurse and mental health clinician in every school, and give every student a career development plan by 10th grade through the Capital Corps Youth Track.

Fourth, safety. Every DC public school will operate under enforceable sanctuary protections.

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

The Caribbean-American community carries distinct health profiles and cultural approaches to wellness that DC's current health infrastructure does not adequately address. My administration will build partnerships that meet people where they already are.

I will fund community health worker programs embedded in the institutions Caribbean-American families trust: churches, cultural organizations, and community health centers. These workers will provide culturally competent care navigation, chronic disease prevention outreach, and mental health support.



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Mental health carries particular stigma in many Caribbean-American communities. Clinical models alone will not reach everyone. My administration will partner with Caribbean-American organizations to develop wellness programming that reflects cultural context, integrates faith and community networks, and creates entry points that do not require walking into a government clinic.

For chronic disease prevention, I will direct DC Health to partner with Caribbean-American organizations on targeted outreach for conditions that disproportionately affect the community, including diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. This means screenings at community events, culturally informed nutrition programming, and trusted messengers delivering health education.

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Caribbean-American Affairs will have a direct line to DC Health leadership to ensure these partnerships are sustained and resourced.

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 between law enforcement and Caribbean-American residents requires clear rules, consistent enforcement, and visible accountability. My administration will deliver all three.

Officers will operate under explicit protocols: no immigration status inquiries, no collaboration with ICE without a judicial warrant, and no joint operations that advance federal priorities over DC public safety. Caribbean-American residents must know that MPD serves them, not surveils them.

Second, oversight and transparency. I will implement public dashboards tracking use-of-force incidents, complaint outcomes, federal law enforcement activity in DC, and community trust metrics by ward. When problems emerge, residents will see them and someone will answer for them.

Third, training. MPD officers need consistent, values-driven training in de-escalation, cultural competency, and trauma-informed policing. Officers



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must understand the communities they serve, including the particular concerns immigrant residents carry about interactions with law enforcement.

Fourth, community-centered safety. I will expand violence interruption programs, restorative justice, and youth engagement. These approaches prevent harm and build trust without overreliance on enforcement.

Finally, the Mayor's Advisory Council on Caribbean-American Affairs will have a direct channel to report law enforcement concerns to my office.

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

My policy agenda is built to improve outcomes for working families across DC. Several initiatives will directly benefit Caribbean-American communities. Some of these I have already mentioned.

Fare-Free DC eliminates transit fares for all DC residents, saving regular riders roughly \$1,000 a year. For Caribbean-American workers concentrated in healthcare, food service, construction, and home care, that is real money back in their pockets every month.

Affordable DC builds 50,000 new homes by 2032 with permanently affordable units through community land trusts and smarter inclusionary zoning. Housing counseling and homebuyer assistance programs will operate with multilingual staff and predictable rules so immigrant families can access them.

Capital Corps connects 5,000 DC residents to structured service, training, mentorship, and career pathways. Caribbean-American youth and newcomers will have direct pipelines into public service and professional development.

Educate DC expands dual language and bilingual programs, Pre-K seats, and career and technical education with an Advanced Technical Center in every ward.

I will increase Main Streets funding and expand micro-grant programs for immigrant-owned small businesses. I will streamline procurement so Caribbean-American-owned firms can compete for city contracts.



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I will fund community health worker programs embedded in trusted institutions for culturally competent healthcare access, chronic disease prevention, and mental health support.

I will defend sanctuary protections across every city agency, fund a legal defense fund for residents targeted by federal enforcement, and launch a citywide Know Your Rights campaign.

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 ensure MOCCA has dedicated staff beyond a single director, including multilingual community liaisons who can connect Caribbean-American residents to services across agencies in real time. The office needs capacity to do its job: advising on policy, coordinating across agencies, running community grants, and serving as a genuine bridge between government and the community members.

I will include MOCCA in my budget with line-item funding sufficient to support community grant programs, outreach, cultural programming, and staffing. Comparable community affairs offices like MOAA and MOLA provide a model for what adequate resourcing looks like. MOCCA should be funded at parity.

I will appoint a MOCCA director with deep roots in the Caribbean-American community, real government experience, and direct access to my office. The director will participate in regular cabinet-level coordination so Caribbean-American community concerns are present when policy decisions are made, not raised after the fact.

MOCCA's effectiveness will be measured through published annual reporting on community engagement, service referrals, grant disbursements, and policy recommendations acted upon.



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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 support the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act. Congress has attempted to overturn it. I will defend it.

Every person who lives in DC, pays taxes, sends their children to our schools, and contributes to our neighborhoods deserves a voice in how this city is governed. Noncitizen residents are not visitors. They are Washingtonians. This law recognizes that basic fact, and my administration will make sure it is implemented fully and effectively.

First, awareness. Many eligible noncitizen residents do not know this right exists. My administration will launch a multilingual public education campaign through MOCCA, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, community health centers, houses of worship, schools, and Main Streets corridors where immigrant communities are concentrated. Outreach materials will be available in multiple languages. The campaign will be clear and direct: if you live here, you can vote here.

Second, implementation. I will work with the DC Board of Elections to ensure registration processes are accessible, that poll workers are trained on noncitizen voter eligibility, and that no eligible resident is turned away or intimidated. Voter registration drives will be integrated into city agency touchpoints where immigrant residents already interact with government.

Third, defense. Congress has tried to strip this law. My administration will use every legal and political tool available to defend it, including coordinating with the Attorney General and building national visibility for DC's right to self-governance.

Noncitizen residents live here, work here, and build this city every day. They deserve to be heard.