

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

A NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY THE
SPRING VALLEY-WESLEY HEIGHTS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION AND
NEIGHBORS FOR A LIVABLE COMMUNITY

FALL 2020 SPECIAL DC COUNCIL AT LARGE ELECTION ISSUE

THOMAS M. SMITH, EDITOR

24 CANDIDATES SEEK YOUR VOTE FOR 2 DC COUNCIL AT LARGE SEATS

VOTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

All registered DC voters will receive a ballot for the November 3 election in the mail. If you have not yet received your ballot or if you have any questions about voting, call 1-866-328-6837. You have several options to vote:

- 1) Mail your ballot through USPS.
- 2) Drop your ballot off at a Mail-In-Ballot Drop Box Location beginning October 5 until 8 PM, November 3, at the Palisades Library, the 2nd District Police Station, or the Tenley-Friendship Library, or 3 other locations in Ward 3.
- 3) Vote in person at an Early Voting Location beginning October 27 through November 2 from 8:30 AM – 7 PM at the Horace Mann Elementary School or other locations across the city.
- 4) Vote in person on Election Day, November 3 at Horace Mann Elementary School or 10 other locations in Ward 3, including two Super Vote Centers.

Additional location information is available at www.dcboe.org

By Thomas M. Smith, Editor

Many voters are finding themselves overwhelmed to choose among a slate of 24 candidates running in the November 3 election to fill two DC Council At Large seats. Some attribute the large field to new public financing laws that are in effect for this election. You can cast 2 votes for Council At Large.

DC Council At Large members represent the whole city, so the candidates have a lot of ground to cover. This is difficult in normal conditions; but, throw in a dangerous, contagious virus, and the task of campaigning for votes is probably overwhelming.

The Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association (SVWHCA), the neighborhoods' long-standing citizens association, and Neighbors for a Livable Community (NLC), another long-established non-profit organization that focuses on preserving the character of neighborhoods surrounding American University (AU), have invited all 24 Council At Large candidates to submit candidate statements that may prove helpful to you as you consider your choices this year. Twelve candidates have submitted statements for your consideration. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

I hope you find this information helpful. More detailed information is available at the Board of Elections website at www.dcboe.org

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS DC COUNCIL AT LARGE

Joe Bishop-Henchman

My name is Joe Bishop-Henchman, and I live in Eckington with my husband Ethan and our dog Magic. I think it's important that the independent on the DC Council be a true independent, asking the questions that no one else will and being an watchdog to ensure the \$16 billion budget is spent wisely. My background is a tax policy expert and lawyer, working with legislators all over the country to make their tax codes simpler and more competitive. My top priorities will be budget accountability, cutting red tape, and job creation. I'd be honored to earn one of the votes you get to cast for DC Council At-Large!

Marcus Goodwin

Marcus Goodwin is a native Washingtonian who grew up in Columbia Heights and Congress Heights with seven brothers and sisters. His mother is a DCPS teacher from Senegal, West Africa and his father came to DC from South Carolina to attend Howard University, the first in his family to attend college. Growing up in a single-parent household with seven siblings had its challenges, but his parents instilled in him the importance of helping those in need, and the value of hard work and a high-quality education. Marcus started at John Quincy Adams Elementary school before earning a scholarship to St. Albans and eventually go to get his undergraduate degree in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania and his masters in urban design from Harvard University's School of Design.

Marcus has built affordable housing for seven years so residents of all income levels can afford to live here, including a recently completed entirely affordable senior building on Bladensburg road. He also served as the Director of Run Hope Work, a non-profit that certifies at-risk youths for vocational skills so they can get a good-paying job.

As an At-Large Councilmember, Marcus will fight to ensure that residents have the resources they need to stay safe during the pandemic and that the District's recovery equitably transforms our economy. He will bring new, balanced leadership to the Council and a keen understanding of the issues facing our most vulnerable communities. If elected, Marcus will focus on expanding homeownership opportunities, creating a more equitable school system by ending the digital divide, and improving our vocational training programs to create more good-paying jobs. Marcus puts people over politics. It's time for new ideas and new leadership on the Council, it's time for a Goodwin for DC.

Franklin Garcia

Hello my name is Franklin Garcia and I am running for a seat as an At-Large member of the DC Council. I have been in DC for nearly 40 years. I am a graduate of GW and AU, and for the past 30 years I have worked in Information Technology and banking.

I am your current US representative, advocating for DC Statehood. When I started working for DC Statehood in Congress in 2014, we had half of the co-sponsors needed to pass our Bill; our combined effort passed the US House of Representative on June of this year. I go to Congress and advocate for full representation of our city in our national legislation, I am now advocating for representation of all residents in our local legislation.

I will be a champion for all in affordable housing, insuring that the programs that got me my first house are available to all Washingtonians. I will be a partner in the fight for better education for our kids. Advocating for a stronger School board, and ensuring that all of our neighborhood public schools provide a first class education, while giving parents choices. I will advocate for reimagining our police department which means, start with changing our hiring practices to ensure our police force reflect the communities they serve. I want to ensure that internal processes reward how many community meetings officers attend, and not how many tickets they write, and ultimately we need to have in place a good accountability system that increases the trust between the police and the community. I will be a champion for small business to ensure that our city's thriving economy is back, and that our small businesses have the resources they need to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I know you have a lot of choices in this election, but let's make sure we send a proven community leader that will advocate for the least among us, and will continue the fight for justice and equality in our city. Please vote for Franklin Garcia, #3 on the ballot. <http://Franklinfordc.com>. Thank you.

Kathy Henderson

We need a strong advocate that understands how to make D.C. Government work for D.C. residents, not outside interests. Kathy believes in good Government and will:

- Ensure public safety and conscientious policing is a priority in every community, and she has always understood that Black Lives Matter
- Increase access to jobs for D.C. residents by leveraging legislative resources to create real opportunity
- Identify areas of Government waste and review our tax structure to provide savings for residents
- Create public/private partnerships to improve literacy for children and adults, promote strong school oversight and increase library resources; strong literacy skills benefit everyone
- Expand access to affordable housing, including home ownership and promote sensible and strategic

development that residents want: no developer giveaways or backroom deals Kathy served as an effective 20-year advisory neighborhood commissioner and has a proven track record of getting things done.

She delivered new sidewalks, speed humps, streetlights, trees, recreation programming and works closely with law enforcement to reduce crime and strengthen resident-police relationships in the community. Kathy advocated for development projects such as Atlas Flats, Starburst Plaza, Denny's Union Market, Hecht's Ivy City, Rhode Island Row, Dakota Crossing and other key projects in our city, including Nationals Stadium.

Kathy also served as a Member of the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board, as a Trustee for the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, has convened a task force and has testified continuously before the D.C. Council on a variety of issues. Kathy was elected city-wide, as a Member of the D.C. Democratic State Committee and serves in other positions. Kathy also worked for the Federal Government and the District Government where she helped put our residents back to work. Kathy began her career in public service as an AMERICORP *VISTA Member, helping children improve their reading skills, in 16 of the District's targeted schools.

Kathy is a humanitarian always striving for the greatest good for the greatest number of people and is a strong champion for the environment, underscoring her training as a biologist. No one works harder and Kathy WILL work hard as YOUR At-Large Councilmember.

Chander Jayaraman

I have called the District home for 25 years. I met my wife Suzanne here, and we are raising our son, Kol, here. I am inspired every day by my mom, who brought me to America and worked three jobs to ensure that we had what we needed to be successful. Ever since, I have felt a responsibility to pay it forward.

We can do better for our families and our community. As an emergency planner, I worked on DC's pandemic flu plan and currently help child care centers reopen safely. I know what is possible and what a successful reopening of our schools should look like. Once past the pandemic, we should bring back vocational education. As head of the YouthBuild job training program at the Latin American Youth Center, I saw the power of giving people paid training that gives them a career and an opportunity at success.

As an elected ANC Commissioner for the past eight years (four as Chair and Vice-Chair), I have helped our local small businesses, the lifeblood of our community. The Council will need to do more to support their recovery, for the health of our community and workers.

I have fought to make city officials listen to, and take input from, local residents about zoning, traffic, and other issues. When the city came to tell us how they would reconfigure roads around Eastern Market Metro plaza, I told them they needed to talk to us first. The city has an obligation to meet the unique needs of each community, from transportation to historic preservation, development, and more.

We must ensure the safety of our neighborhoods. This summer, I convened ANC Commissioners from every ward, the deputy chief of police, and council members to reimagine what policing could look like. I believe we should invest more in gun buyback programs and violence interruption programs, while creating real opportunities for young people. These are what families have told me is important to them and these are the priorities I will champion as a member of the DC Council.

Ed Lazere

DC has been my home for my entire adult life. I moved to DC 34 years ago to teach math to 5th and 6th graders from low-income families in Mt. Pleasant. My wife Suzanne and I bought our first and only home in Brookland in 1992, which was then both affordable and diverse, something important to us as an inter-racial couple getting ready to start a family. We have two adult sons, David and Adam, who went all the way through DCPS. I have served DC as a PTA leader, a Scoutmaster in Cub Scouts, a foster parent, and president of my congregation, Temple Micah.

I've devoted the last two decades to economic and racial justice, as founding executive director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. (I stepped down in March 2020 to run.) At DCFPI, I highlighted DC's deepest inequities -- in housing, schools, and jobs -- and built coalitions across the city to address them. I've contributed to wins for DC residents, like devoting more school resources to high-poverty schools and providing property tax assistance to protect senior homeowners from being pushed out by rising taxes.

I'm running because our prosperity has come at the expense of rising homelessness, wider school inequities and displacement of Black residents. I want to put racial and economic equity at the heart of DC's agenda and tackle DC's biggest challenges at the scale they demand.

As a Council member, I will bring my two decades of DC budget expertise and advocacy to help the District survive the pandemic without leaving anyone behind. I will push the Council to adopt important goals, like ending chronic homelessness, making high-quality child care available to every child regardless of income or zip code, supporting public transit and a

walkable city where pedestrians feel safe, and making sure DC does its part to address the climate crisis.

Jeanne Lewis

Greetings Neighbors,

My name is Jeanne Lewis, and I am running for DC Council at Large because I believe it is possible to grow our economy and improve our quality of life without pushing residents out. My life and career has been about working with people across divides to imagine solutions that we can't find on our own. As an organizer, interfaith leader, VP of a national nonprofit working with groups all over the country directing programs to work with Congress on bipartisan conversations about race and policy, I believe our city needs a leader who will center our home and our vision for a DC that works for all of us. The following is a summary of my key priorities.

Sustainable Housing ● Strengthen our Inclusionary Zoning law (and its enforcement) to require developers to include more affordable housing units—and that “affordable” means truly affordable. ● Prioritize the repair of dilapidated public housing developments as recommended by DCHA’s recent audit and transformation plan. Assure one-for-one replacement of units and guarantee housing for residents displaced during renovation. ● Adequately fund Housing First programs that provide greater supportive housing options for those homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Excellent Schools ● Provide Real School Choice by increasing support to struggling neighborhood public schools, greater oversight of public charter schools, and priority for at-risk children in the My School DC Lottery. ● Provide more extensive school-based mental health supports, community centers, and recreation opportunities in every part of the District, as well as targeted violence prevention programs to assure all children a safe passage to school. ● Develop a viable plan to fund the Birth to Three program to ensure healthier birth outcomes and support the growth, development, and well-being of our youngest residents.

Equitable Development ● Promote community wealth-building by creating a web of collaborative institutions, including worker cooperatives, and community land trusts. ● Provide more opportunities to District residents to invest in our community, through community benefit agreements and programs for employees wishing to purchase the businesses in which they work. ● Save our long-standing small and legacy businesses by supporting employee ownership, providing tax abatement, or reducing leasing costs, particularly in gentrifying neighborhoods.

Will Merrifield

Hello! I'm Will Merrifield running for DC Council At-Large. I decided to run for office because in my work as a housing attorney at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, I got sick and tired of watching big, politically-connected companies line their pockets with our taxpayer money instead of government funds going toward things people actually need.

The best example of this happened at Brookland Manor, an affordable housing building with 535 units. The Mayor and DC Council unanimously voted to give a private developer \$47 million to tear down the affordable housing and build luxury apartments in its place. I stood with those tenants, and we fought in the streets, in the courtroom, and at the Wilson Building -- and we WON.

Being a frontline fighter for the basic human right to housing hasn't been easy, and I don't expect continuing those fights on DC Council to be easier. But I promise to continue to stand with regular people instead of kowtowing to the will of big companies and corporate campaign contributors.

My campaign is based on the belief that:

- Housing is a human right. Having a safe, stable home is crucial to being able to hold down a job or learn at school; we must create deeply affordable housing for all.
- Healthcare is a human right. Whole-person health is a must, from green space for exercise and play to accessible local providers of preventative and emergency care.
- Education is a human right. Every child deserves to receive a world-class education at a local public school, if the family so chooses.
- Employment is a human right. Each able person should have the opportunity to a job, and the DC government should play a big role in hiring DC residents.

I have a plan to ensure each of these human rights. I invite you to check out my website at willfordc.com to learn more about what I'm going to do and how I'm going to do it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mónica Palacio

As a Civil Rights lawyer, a community leader, a mother, and a Latina, I am running to win the At-Large seat on the DC Council because this election is about saving lives and protecting families. For almost three decades, I have worked side by side with community

leaders across DC to tear down barriers for residents and ensure human and civil rights for all District residents.

For six years, I served as Director of the District's Office of Human Rights and this experience makes me uniquely qualified to serve as your Councilmember. This election is an opportunity to bring about the change our city needs and my legislative priorities will have racial equity at their center.

My goals and priorities are: 1) Housing: funding for residents to pay their rent and mortgage during this economic crisis. 2) Education: investing in schools and students who need us the most right now and building an equitable education system. 3) Health care: ensuring all District residents have access to high-quality health care. 4) Public Safety: ending police brutality and ensuring all District residents feel safe in the hands of the government.

Marya Pickering

Who I am: immigrant/refugee, Mom, and long time DC resident with extensive experience in government and industry including start up of small companies, service in government agencies and large companies as an immigrant, I know that an education is everyone's ticket to a better future.

Why I am running: My campaign motto is "No more business as usual." It is time to bring true diversity of ideas and prudent management to the DC Council. My experience in industry and government uniquely qualifies me for the Council's oversight role.

- As a mother, I believe that all DC children deserve a quality education; I support choice for parents, including vouchers and charter schools;
- As a homeowner, I support a strong and well-trained police force for keep our city safe;
- As a businesswoman and taxpayer, I support improvement of our contracting process;
- As a senior, I favor reduced taxes on pension income and support passage of the Pension Exclusion Restoration and Expansion Act, 23-0060.

Why vote for me? As a former small business owner, contract management professional with an MBA degree, and government employee, I am the best qualified candidate to effect positive change for all D.C. residents.

Michangelo “Doctor Mic” Scruggs

This is the time for change. I am the change, you are the change. Together let’s change DC to work for all of us. My name is Michangelo “Doctor Mic” Scruggs and I am seeking the privilege to become your next DC Councilmember at Large.

If we continue to place the same type of elected leaders in office, we will continue to have the same results. I am not vying for office for self-elevation, self-preservation, or self-gratification. For me, it’s about working to meet the needs of every DC citizen, recognizing that each citizen, each community, and each neighborhood has very specific needs. I will engage you on every level, and speak truth to power in City Hall, always working for you. As a podiatrist/podiatric surgeon, I have worked within communities in every ward here in DC, and I have been affiliated with Sibley Memorial Hospital for the last 3 years.

My approach is simple: Engage each citizen to learn and absorb your needs, then work to create new strategies and opportunities to meet your new and unresolved challenges. In all areas of need, whether it be healthcare, education, public safety, or caring for our elderly, I am committed to you. DC is in a deficit because of COVID-19. Unlike my fellow candidates I believe the wrong approach is to tax DC Citizens who make over \$250 K, to the tune of a 5-10% tax increase, as an attempt to recover. I believe we should tax corporations that come into DC, make millions, but don’t re-invest in our communities. As Councilman, I will advocate for the Corporate Community Investment Tax, whereby Corporations whose gross revenue is above \$10 million per year would have to pay a \$1.5% tax. This tax would be solely earmarked for investment into our communities. The reality is that taxing wage-earners in DC who make above \$250 K would essentially tax entire communities, especially in Wards 2 and 3, which doesn’t solve the problem.

On November 3, 2020, please vote Michangelo “Doctor Mic” Scruggs for DC Council at Large. Please go to www.drmicdcouncil.com for more information.

Robert White

I am Robert White, a Democratic At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia, Chair of the Committee on Facilities and Procurement, and Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Board of Directors. I graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School and attended St. Mary’s College of Maryland and American University Washington College of Law.

I previously served as Legislative Counsel to Congresswoman Norton. I was lead staffer on congressional oversight hearings related to DC and helped draft legislation to loosen

Congress' grip on DC government. I worked on issues that impact you, like pushing the Army Corps of Engineers to fully clean and inspect the munitions in your neighborhood, and planned congressional oversight hearings on that issue. I also worked with residents and the FAA on reducing noise from aircrafts that fly over your homes. I served as the first Director of Community Outreach for the Office of the Attorney General and presented at ANC meetings in your neighborhood. I ran for office because I knew that I could use my skills as a lawyer and experience to help my community.

During my first term, I have authored nationally recognized early childhood education and voting rights legislation, led the region in addressing our housing crisis, and helped create more resources for residents by redirecting funds to direct services, like funding a team of attorneys to investigate and prosecute elder abuse and financial exploitation of seniors.

As Chair of the Committee on Facilities and Procurement, I oversee our construction and contracting agencies, and have worked to reform processes within those agencies to work better for residents, including legislation to help District-based companies compete more effectively for local contracts and ensure faster payment for subcontractors on District government projects. My committee also oversees WMATA for the District, and I've been working to strengthen our regional partnership and move the agency toward cleaner, sustainable public transit options.

I've introduced over 40 bills to refocus our government on you, our residents. I want to keep leading this fight, so I am asking for your vote so we can continue what we've started.

Ann C. Wilcox

I am running for the At Large position, as ballot candidate for the DC Statehood Green Party. The DCSG is DC's historic progressive party, promoting DC Statehood and a progressive platform. Our key issues include affordable housing, support for public education, health equity and criminal justice reform. We do not believe in give-aways to developers; development projects should create deeply-affordable housing and preserve existing housing as much as possible. We favor expansion of rent control, eliminating existing loopholes. Development should also be environmentally-conscious, with housing built near Metro and discourage use of cars downtown.

I am a public interest lawyer, former elected member of the DC Board of Education (Ward 2, 1994-98) and served on the DC Commission for Women (1991-95). I have served on non-profit boards, including the National Lawyers Guild. The DC Statehood Green Party is DC's historic progressive party, and believes DC should be a healthy, equitable community for all.

Reminder: Wear A Mask, But Say Hello

More and more neighbors, including children, are out every day walking, running, and biking on neighborhood streets. If you are driving in the neighborhoods, please slow down. **Masks are required when outside unless you are engaged in vigorous exercise. Social distancing also helps to protect each other. Thank you for wearing a mask.**

Neighborhood Update is a newsletter established by **the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association (SVWHCA)** (www.svwhca.org) and **Neighbors for a Livable Community (NLC)** to report news and information on issues of importance to residents of Spring Valley and Wesley Heights. You may send information appropriate for publication to Tom Smith at tmfsmith@rcn.com. No portion of this newsletter may be duplicated without written permission from the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association. This newsletter is distributed electronically. If you want to be on the distribution list, send your email to tmfsmith@rcn.com. Please share this with your own personal e-mail networks.

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