



2026 DC Primary Election Voter Guide | Voices for a Second Chance

2026 DC Primary Election VOTER GUIDE

*Prepared by Civic Vision Strategies for Community Awareness
In Partnership with Voices for a Second Chance (VSC)*

About This Guide

Voices for a Second Chance created this voter guide because we believe that returning citizens and justice-impacted communities deserve clear, accessible information about the candidates and choices on the ballot. Too often, the people most affected by government decisions are the least informed about who is making them.

This guide covers the June 16, 2026, Washington D.C. primary election. It includes candidates from all parties — Democratic, Republican, and DC Statehood Green — as well as the At-Large Council Special Election. Every candidate profiled receives the same format. Candidate information has been verified against the DC Board of Elections official filings and ballot control documents as of May 18, 2026.

This guide is provided for informational purposes only and may not reflect the most current or accurate data. For official information, please consult the District of Columbia Board of Elections at dcboe.org. VSC is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization and does not endorse any particular candidate, campaign, or political party.

Where detailed policy positions were not publicly available for a candidate, we note that clearly. We encourage all voters to visit candidate websites and attend community forums to learn more.

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 - Why your vote matters: elections and policy enforcement
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Why This Matters

Every election shapes the systems that affect daily life — public safety, housing, reentry supports, youth programs, economic opportunity, and DC’s ability to govern itself. Your vote helps determine the future of these systems and the wellbeing of our communities.

Voices for a Second Chance (VSC)

VSC supports individuals returning home from incarceration and their families through reentry services, advocacy, and community partnerships. This guide reflects VSC’s commitment to ensuring that justice-impacted residents have access to the information they need to participate fully in the democratic process.

How This Guide Is Organized

To make it easier to compare candidates, We reviewed each candidate’s publicly available positions through five issue areas that are especially relevant to the communities we serve. Not every candidate has taken a public position on every issue. Where a candidate’s positions were available, we summarized them under these categories:

- **Public Safety & Justice:** Policing, violence prevention, accountability, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry.
- **Housing & Stability:** Affordable housing, homelessness, and supportive housing.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Jobs, small business support, workforce development, and opportunities for returning citizens.
- **Youth & Families:** Education, youth programs, family supports, and prevention.
- **DC Autonomy & Governance:** Home rule, federal interference, statehood, and the role of the office.

These categories reflect VSC’s priorities. Individual candidates may emphasize different issues or use different language to describe their positions.



How Ranked Choice Voting Works

This is the first DC election to use ranked choice voting (RCV), approved by voters through Initiative 83 in November 2024. Here's what you need to know:

The Basics

- Instead of voting for just one candidate, you can rank up to five candidates in order of preference for each race with three or more candidates.
- Mark your favorite candidate as your 1st choice, your second favorite as your 2nd choice, and so on.
- You do not have to rank all five. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you like. Ranking just one candidate is still a valid vote.

How Votes Are Counted

- All first-choice votes are counted first. If any candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, they win.
- If no candidate reaches 50%, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated.
- If your top choice is eliminated, your vote moves to your next-ranked candidate.
- This process repeats until one candidate earns a majority and is declared the winner.

Important Tips

- Ranking additional candidates does not hurt your first choice. Your second choice is only counted if your first choice is eliminated.
- Do not give multiple candidates the same ranking.
- Do not rank the same candidate more than once.
- Do not skip rankings (for example, ranking 1st and 3rd but skipping 2nd).

Ranked choice voting means the winning candidate must earn broad support. It is designed to give voters more choices and more voice in the outcome.

RCV Technical Terms (For Outreach Workers)

Under Initiative 83 (D.C. Act 25-652), the following terms have specific meanings. Outreach workers should be familiar with these so they can answer voter questions:

- **Inactive Ballot:** A ballot becomes inactive if all of a voter's ranked candidates have been eliminated in counting rounds. The ballot is not thrown out — it simply has no remaining active candidate to transfer to. This is why ranking more candidates gives your ballot more chances to count.



- **Overvote:** If a voter gives the same ranking to more than one candidate (for example, marking two candidates as their 1st choice), that ranking and all lower rankings are not counted. The ballot counts only for rankings above the overvote.
- **Skipped Ranking:** If a voter skips a ranking (for example, ranking 1st and 3rd but leaving 2nd blank), the skipped ranking is ignored and the next valid ranking is counted.
- However, skipping can increase the risk of an inactive ballot, so voters should rank candidates consecutively.

Source: Initiative 83 (D.C. Act 25-652), funded in the DC FY2026 budget. Full text available at dcboe.org/elections/ranked-choice-voting.

Why Your Vote Matters: Elections and Policy Enforcement

Voting is not just about picking a candidate. It is about choosing the people who decide whether the policies that affect your life get enforced. Here are real examples:

- **Housing:** DC has funding set aside for affordable housing for people leaving incarceration. But if the officials overseeing that money don't prioritize it, those dollars can sit unspent or get redirected.
- **Jobs:** DC law requires that certain jobs go to DC residents. But enforcement is inconsistent, and many returning citizens never see those opportunities.
- **Healthcare:** Gaps in healthcare coverage during the transition from incarceration to community can be life-threatening. The Mayor and Council decide how much funding goes to continuity of care.
- **Halfway Houses:** Halfway houses in DC are overcrowded and under-resourced. The officials you elect control the budget and oversight that determine whether conditions improve.
- **Voting Rights:** DC passed the Restore the Vote Act to let incarcerated residents vote. But incarcerated people and returning citizens still need access to election information in order to fully participate.

When elected officials know that returning citizens are paying attention, showing up, and holding them accountable, they are far more likely to follow through.



How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated

DC is one of a small number of jurisdictions where incarcerated residents retain the full right to vote. Here is a step-by-step guide:

If You Are in the DC Jail (Central Detention Facility / Correctional Treatment Facility)

- A polling place is located inside the DC Jail. You can vote in person during early voting (June 8–14) or on Election Day (June 16).
- The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) is required to offer voter registration during intake and at multiple points during your stay.
- The DC Board of Elections (BOE) is required to provide voter registration forms, educational materials, voter guides, and absentee ballots with postage-paid return envelopes.
- If you have not received these materials, contact DOC staff and request them. You can also ask a trusted visitor or advocate to contact the BOE on your behalf.

If You Are in a Federal (BOP) Facility

- The BOE is required to endeavor to provide registration and ballot materials to DC residents in BOP custody. Electronic voter registration forms are posted on BOP internal messaging systems.
- Request an absentee ballot by contacting the DC Board of Elections. You can write to: DC Board of Elections, 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003.
- You can also call: (202) 727-2525 or toll-free 1-866-DC-VOTES (1-866-328-6837).

Key Dates for Incarcerated Voters

- May 11: BOE began mailing absentee ballots.
- May 22: Mail ballot drop boxes available (through 8:00 PM on June 16).
- May 26: Voter registration deadline (same-day registration available during early voting and on Election Day).
- June 8–14: Early voting (in-jail polling place open daily, 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM).
- June 16: Election Day (polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM).

For questions or help, contact the DC Board of Elections: (202) 727-2525 | Toll-free: 1-866-328-6837 | dcboc.org



What's on the Ballot?

A Simple Overview for Community Members, Returning Citizens, and First-Time Voters

Race	What This Office Does	Your Ballot
Mayor	Runs the city's agencies — including public safety, housing, reentry programs, and youth services.	RANK up to 5 (Dem: 7 on ballot; SG: 1 on ballot)
Attorney General	DC's top legal officer. Prosecutes juvenile crime, enforces consumer and housing protections, and represents DC in legal matters.	Vote for ONE (Dem: 2 candidates; R: 1 candidate)
DC Council – At-Large (Democratic)	Represents the entire city. Helps set the budget, oversee agencies, and shape laws on housing, safety, and opportunity.	RANK up to 5 (9 Dem candidates on ballot)
DC Council – At-Large Special Election	Fills the seat vacated by Kenyan McDuffie. All registered voters can participate.	RANK up to 4 (3 Independent candidates on ballot)
Delegate to U.S. House	Represents DC in Congress. Advocates for statehood, federal funding, and protections for local laws.	RANK up to 5 (Dem: 5 on ballot; R: 1; SG: 1)

Remember: This is DC's first election using ranked choice voting. You can rank candidates for each race with 3+ candidates, or you can vote for just one. Either way, your vote counts.

Important Notes for Voters

- This election uses ranked choice voting for races with three or more candidates.
- You can vote early (June 8–14, 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM daily), on Election Day (June 16, 7 AM – 8 PM), or by mail.
- Mail ballot drop boxes are available May 22 through 8:00 PM on June 16.
- You must be registered with a party to vote in that party's primary. All registered voters can vote in the At-Large Special Election.
- DC offers automatic voter registration at the DMV. Check your status at dcboe.org.
- Same-day voter registration is available during early voting and on Election Day.
- Returning citizens can vote in DC — including individuals on probation, parole, or supervised release.



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- DC residents currently incarcerated can also vote. See “How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated” earlier in this guide.

Where to Learn More

- DC Board of Elections: **dcboe.org** | **(202) 727-2525** | **Toll-free: 1-866-328-6837**
- Candidate websites: Listed in each section of this guide.



Mayor of the District of Columbia

Why the Mayor's Race Matters

The Mayor oversees public safety agencies, housing programs, reentry supports, youth services, and the city's budget. These decisions directly affect people returning home from incarceration, individuals under supervision, and families navigating the criminal legal system.

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each party.

Democratic Primary Candidates (7 on ballot + write-ins)

Yaida O. Ford

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Write-in (not on printed ballot; write-in affidavit filed 3/30/2026)

Background: Civil rights attorney with experience in tenant advocacy and litigation.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes civil rights, police accountability, and community-based approaches to safety.

Housing & Stability: Known for tenant rights and anti-displacement work. Focuses on protecting renters and addressing inequities in housing access.

Economic Opportunity: Frames economic stability as connected to civil rights and fair access to employment.

Youth & Families: Highlights the need for strong supports for families and young people, especially those affected by systemic inequities.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Positions DC autonomy as a civil rights issue and supports strong local control.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Gary Goodweather

Website: <https://www.goodweatherdc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #3)

Background: Business owner and developer with experience in real estate and community projects.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes improving basic city services and supporting effective policing. Discusses safety as a foundation for community well-being.



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Housing & Stability: Supports new housing development, including transit-oriented projects. Has spoken about increasing supply and improving the development process.

Economic Opportunity: Focuses on economic growth, business climate, and job creation.

Youth & Families: References education and opportunity as long-term safety strategies.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports strong local governance and improving city operations.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Ernest E. Johnson

Website: <https://www.ernestjohnsonfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #5)

Background: Democratic candidate for Mayor. Additional background information was not publicly available at the time of publication.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Janeese Lewis George

Website: <https://www.janeese.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #4)

Background: Ward 4 Councilmember; former Council staffer and attorney.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes violence prevention, youth investment, and accountability for public safety agencies. Supports reforms to policing while maintaining public safety.

Housing & Stability: Supports increasing the supply of housing, including affordable housing, across more neighborhoods. Has backed stronger renter protections.

Economic Opportunity: Connects economic justice to safety, including support for small businesses and jobs programs.

Youth & Families: Highlights early childhood education, school funding, and wraparound services for young people.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports defending DC's home rule authority and opposing federal interference in local laws.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Kenyan R. McDuffie

Website: <https://www.mcduffieformayor.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #1)

Background: Former Ward 5 Councilmember and at-large Councilmember; former attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes reducing crime, improving police transparency, and connecting safety to economic opportunity.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing and development, with attention to balanced growth and neighborhood input.

Economic Opportunity: Highlights small business development, workforce programs, and equitable economic growth.

Youth & Families: Supports investments in youth jobs and education as part of a broader safety strategy.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports defending DC's authority over local matters and strengthening the city's ability to manage agencies effectively.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Vincent Orange

Website: <https://www.vo4dc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #7)

Background: Former Councilmember; past roles in business and civic organizations. Listed on ballot as Vincent Orange ("VO").

Public Safety & Justice: Includes support for policing combined with youth and jobs programs.

Housing & Stability: Has historically supported major development projects and business-led revitalization efforts.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes business development, downtown recovery, and employment.

Youth & Families: Supports youth programs connected to jobs and training.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Advocates for DC interests and strong local authority.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Rini Sampath

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #2)

Background: Democratic candidate for Mayor. No campaign website was publicly available at the time of publication.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Hope Solomon

Website: <https://www.hopefordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #6)

Background: Democratic candidate for Mayor.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

DC Statehood Green Party Primary Candidate

Robert L. Gross

Website: <https://www.grossformayor.com>

Party: DC Statehood Green

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: Information technology professional and U.S. Air Force veteran. Born and raised in Washington, D.C.; attended Cardozo Education Campus.

Housing & Stability: Supports new housing construction aligned with climate and affordability goals. Advocates for a Green Housing Modernization Standard.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes incentivizing DC-based startups with local hiring commitments and apprenticeship pipelines. Supports participatory budgeting.



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Public Safety & Justice: Supports civilian crisis response teams for non-violent situations including behavioral health incidents and family distress.

Youth & Families: Supports intergenerational programming and aligning education investments with college graduation goals.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports DC statehood and strong local control.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Note: There are no Republican candidates on the printed ballot for Mayor. The Republican mayoral primary is write-in only.



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Attorney General

Why the Attorney General Race Matters

The Attorney General is DC's top legal officer. The office prosecutes juvenile crime, enforces consumer and housing protections, and represents the District in legal matters. For returning citizens and justice-impacted communities, this office shapes how the legal system treats young people, holds landlords accountable, and defends DC's right to govern itself.

Note: The Democratic primary has two candidates, so ranked choice voting does not apply. The Republican primary has one candidate. You will vote for one candidate in your party's primary.

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each party.

Democratic Primary Candidates

Brian L. Schwalb (Incumbent)

Website: <https://www.brianfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #1)

Background: Incumbent Attorney General since 2023; third-generation Washingtonian; former partner-in-charge at Venable LLP; former trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Public Safety & Justice: Has prioritized juvenile crime prosecution while also investing in prevention. Introduced the ROAD Act to improve juvenile justice outcomes.

Housing & Consumer Protection: Secured settlements for tenants in substandard housing conditions. Won major recoveries in worker rights and consumer protection cases.

DC Autonomy: Has positioned the office as DC's legal defender on issues of local governance, filing lawsuits on policing authority and other matters.

Accountability: Running as a Fair Elections candidate (small-dollar donations only). Emphasizes independence and transparency.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

J.P. Szymkowicz

Website: <https://www.jp4dc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #2)



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Background: Attorney; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Foxhall (ANC 3D) for seven years.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes stronger enforcement and accountability. Advocates for more resources for MPD hiring, training, and support. Supports addressing root causes through education, economic opportunity, and housing.

Housing & Consumer Protection: Frames safe, affordable housing as a public safety issue. Supports solutions that address housing as part of broader community stability.

DC Autonomy: Supports protecting DC's self-governance and the independence of the Attorney General's office.

Community Engagement: Has worked across all eight wards as a Commissioner. Emphasizes advocacy for victims and community-based approaches.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Primary Candidate

Manuel Rivera

Website: <https://riveraforDC.com>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: Attorney specializing in immigration law; community activist.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes restoring safety and accountability. Supports protecting victims, defending consumers, fighting corruption, and working closely with MPD, the Mayor, and the Council to improve neighborhood safety.

DC Autonomy: Supports protecting DC's self-governance.

Approach: Positions his candidacy around disciplined leadership, real-world legal experience, and a focus on outcomes.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



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DC Council – At-Large

Why the At-Large Council Race Matters

The At-Large Councilmember helps shape DC’s budget, public safety policies, housing programs, and oversight of agencies that directly affect people returning home from incarceration. This seat influences decisions on reentry supports, behavioral health, youth programs, and citywide equity.

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each party.

Democratic Primary Candidates (9 on ballot; RCV applies)

Kevin B. Chavous

Website: <https://www.chavousfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #8)

Background: Former DC Councilmember; businessman and attorney; 1998 mayoral candidate.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports improving public safety through policing and community partnerships.

Housing & Stability: Supports new housing development and neighborhood-focused planning.

Economic Opportunity: Highlights small business support and job creation.

Youth & Families: Emphasizes education, youth opportunity, and family supports.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports strong local control and effective agency oversight.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Dwight Davis

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #1)

Background: Public school principal and educator. No campaign website was publicly available at the time of publication.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate’s website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Dyana N. M. Forester

Website: <https://www.dyanafordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #6)

Background: Former President of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO; labor and worker rights leader.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports worker-centered safety strategies and community investment.

Housing & Stability: Emphasizes affordability and housing access for working families.

Economic Opportunity: Strong focus on labor rights, job quality, and workforce pathways.

Youth & Families: Supports family-centered policies and youth opportunity programs.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports strong local authority and agency accountability.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Fred Hill

Website: <https://www.fredhill2026.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #4)

Background: Businessman; 2020 and 2022 Council candidate.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Greg Jackson

Website: <https://www.gregjacksonfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #9)

Background: Democratic candidate for At-Large Council.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Leniqua'dominique Jenkins

Website: <https://www.jenkinsfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #3)

Background: Former ANC Commissioner; businesswoman; 2022 candidate.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Candace Tiana Nelson

Website: <https://www.candacefordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #2)

Background: Former Chief of Staff to Ward 4 Councilmember; community organizer.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports community-based safety strategies and accountability measures.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing expansion and renter protections.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes workforce development and equitable access to jobs.

Youth & Families: Supports youth programs and school-based supports.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports strong oversight and protecting DC's authority.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Oye Owolewa

Website: <https://www.vote4oye.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #5)

Background: Former DC Shadow U.S. Representative; community pharmacist.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports community-based safety and investments in prevention.

Housing & Stability: Supports increasing affordable housing and transit-oriented development.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes economic mobility and support for small businesses.

Youth & Families: Supports youth programs and education access.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Strong advocate for DC statehood and local control.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Lisa Raymond

Website: <https://www.lisaraymond.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #7)

Background: Former President of the DC State Board of Education; education and community advocate.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports community-based safety strategies and accountability for public safety agencies.

Housing & Stability: Supports increasing housing supply, including affordable housing, and improving the permitting and development process.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes workforce development and equitable access to education as pathways to stability.

Youth & Families: Strong focus on education equity, student supports, and family engagement.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports strong oversight of agencies and protecting DC's authority over local matters.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Primary Candidate

Darrell Green

Party: Republican

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: Republican candidate for the at-large Council seat. No campaign website was publicly available at the time of publication.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



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DC Statehood Green Party Primary Candidate

Darryl Moch

Party: DC Statehood Green

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: DC Statehood Green Party Chair; pastor.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



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DC Council – At-Large Special Election (Independent Seat)

Why This Special Election Matters

This special election fills the at-large seat vacated by Kenyan McDuffie, who resigned in January 2026 to run for mayor. Under DC law, this seat must be held by a non-majority-party member. Three candidates qualified for the ballot. All registered DC voters — regardless of party — can vote in this race. Ranked choice voting applies; voters may rank up to 4 candidates. The winner will serve until the November 2026 general election.

Candidates are listed alphabetically. Per the BOE Ballot Control PDF, only three candidates qualified for the printed ballot.

Doni Crawford (Incumbent)

Website: <https://www.donicrawford.com>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #3)

Background: Interim At-Large Councilmember, appointed unanimously by the Council in January 2026. Over a decade of experience in public policy, economic development, and racial equity. Former committee director for the Council’s Committee on Business and Economic Development.

Economic Opportunity: Focuses on job creation, small business support, and economic development, particularly in underserved wards. Led budget oversight and advanced workforce legislation.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing development and closing tax abatements that have not been reviewed since 2018 to redirect revenue.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports community-based safety strategies and effective oversight of public safety agencies.

Youth & Families: Emphasizes childcare access and workforce supports for working families.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Jacque D. Patterson

Website: <https://www.jacque4dc.com>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #2)



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Background: President of the DC State Board of Education (elected citywide in 2024); U.S. Air Force veteran; former five-term Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner; former Capital City Fellow under Mayor Anthony A. Williams. Ward 8 resident.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes supporting small businesses and maintaining responsible budgeting. Frames affordability as a question of equity and access, with particular attention to disparities east of the Anacostia River.

Youth & Families: Focuses on strengthening schools and expanding opportunity. Brings direct experience in education policy through his role on the State Board of Education. Supports expanding youth violence prevention programs.

Public Safety & Justice: Connects public safety to education and community investment. Has served as a reserve MPD officer.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Strong emphasis on DC self-governance. Positions himself as accountable to residents rather than political institutions or special interests.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Elissa Silverman

Website: <https://www.elissafordc.com>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #1)

Background: Former two-term Independent At-Large Councilmember (2015–2023); former journalist. Led efforts to establish DC’s paid family leave program.

Economic Opportunity: Focuses on worker rights, wages, and economic mobility. Championed paid family leave and small business support legislation.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing production, renter protections, and transit-oriented development.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes government accountability, oversight of public safety agencies, and measurable outcomes.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports protecting DC’s democratic autonomy and safer streets initiatives.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

Why the Delegate Race Matters

DC's Delegate represents the District in Congress, advocating for statehood, federal funding, criminal justice reform, and protections for DC's autonomy. The Delegate can elevate issues affecting returning citizens, public safety, and community stability at the national level.

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each party.

Democratic Primary Candidates (5 on ballot; RCV applies)

Trent Holbrook

Website: <https://www.trentholbrook.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #3)

Background: Attorney and former congressional aide to Eleanor Holmes Norton.

DC Autonomy & Statehood: Supports DC statehood; leans on eight years of experience on Norton's staff as a central credential.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports community safety measures and local control.

Economic Opportunity: Supports economic opportunity and workforce development.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing.

Youth & Families: Supports youth programs and education access.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Greg Jaczko

Website: <https://www.jaczkofordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #5)

Background: Former U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair; former congressional aide.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



Brooke Pinto

Website: <https://www.brookepinto.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #4)

Background: Ward 2 Councilmember; former Assistant Attorney General.

DC Autonomy & Statehood: Supports DC statehood and defending local authority. Seeking to secure the delegate's vote in the Committee of the Whole.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes public safety, agency accountability, and balanced reform.

Economic Opportunity: Focuses on downtown recovery, small business support, and job creation.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing and neighborhood-based development.

Youth & Families: Highlights youth programs and education access.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Robert White

Website: <https://www.joinrobertwhite.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #2)

Background: At-Large Councilmember; former congressional staffer.

DC Autonomy & Statehood: Longtime advocate for DC statehood and voting rights.

Public Safety & Justice: Emphasizes violence prevention, accountability, and addressing root causes.

Economic Opportunity: Focuses on racial equity, workforce development, and economic mobility.

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing expansion and anti-displacement strategies.

Youth & Families: Highlights youth opportunity, education, and family supports.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Kinney Zalesne

Website: <https://www.kinneyfordc.com>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: On ballot (Ballot order #1)

Background: Former DOJ counsel; national Democratic strategist; DNC Deputy National Finance Chair.

DC Autonomy & Statehood: Strong focus on democracy protection and voting rights.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports national gun safety measures and justice reform.



Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes middle-class stability and economic fairness.

Housing & Stability: Supports federal investment in housing affordability.

Youth & Families: Highlights family supports and child well-being.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Primary Candidate

Denise Rosado

Website: <https://rosadoforcongress.com>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: Attorney, former federal attorney advisor, and public servant.

DC Representation: Opposes federal income taxation for DC residents, citing DC's lack of voting congressional representation. Emphasizes accountability and results.

Public Safety & Justice: Supports coordinating with federal law enforcement, tougher sentencing, and increased prosecution.

Economic Opportunity: Supports federal incentives to bring jobs back to downtown DC. Emphasizes making DC a hub for AI and cybersecurity.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)

DC Statehood Green Party Primary Candidate

Kymone Freeman

Party: DC Statehood Green

Ballot status: On ballot (sole named candidate)

Background: Social justice radio station co-founder; 2024 nominee for this seat.

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: May 18, 2026 (DCBOE)



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Other Races on Your Ballot

Depending on your ward and party registration, you may see additional races on your June 16 ballot. Below is a brief guide.

Council Chair

What this office does: Presides over the DC Council, sets the legislative agenda, and plays a key role in budget negotiations and agency oversight.

2026 Candidates: Phil Mendelson (D, incumbent, unopposed). Abi-Ananiah Prudent (R).

Ward Council Seats (Wards 1, 3, 5, 6)

What this office does: Ward Councilmembers represent their specific ward on the 13-member Council.

2026 Note: Multiple candidates are running in each ward across parties. Check dcboe.org for candidates in your ward.

Shadow Senator

2026 Candidates: Paul Strauss (D, incumbent) and Markus Batchelor (D). Robert Simmons (R).

Shadow Representative

2026 Candidates: Franklin Garcia (D).

State Board of Education

2026 Note: Check dcboe.org to see if your ward has a race on the ballot.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs)

2026 Note: ANC races are specific to your neighborhood. Check dcboe.org for candidates.

For full candidate lists and sample ballots, visit: dcboe.org



Common Questions: A Quick Reference for Outreach

This section helps VSC team members, peer educators, and volunteers answer the most common questions during outreach.

Q: Can I vote if I have a felony conviction?

Yes. In DC, if you are a U.S. citizen and a DC resident you never lose your right to vote, even while incarcerated. This includes felony convictions.

Q: Can I vote if I'm currently incarcerated?

Yes. DC residents in DC Jail can vote in person or by absentee ballot. DC residents in federal (BOP) facilities can request an absentee ballot. See "How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated" for step-by-step instructions.

Q: Can I vote if I'm on probation, parole, or supervised release?

Yes. Your supervision status does not affect your right to vote in DC.

Q: How do I register to vote?

Register online at dcboe.org, at the DMV, by mail, or in person. Same-day registration is available during early voting and on Election Day.

Q: Am I already registered?

If you got a DC ID at the DMV, you may have been automatically registered. Check at dcboe.org or call (202) 727-2525.

Q: What is ranked choice voting?

Instead of picking one candidate, you can rank up to five in order of preference. If no one gets over 50%, the last-place candidate is eliminated and those votes move to the next choice.

Q: What if I make a mistake on my ranked ballot?

If you give the same ranking to two candidates (overvote), that ranking and any below it won't count. If you skip a ranking, the next valid one will count, but skipping increases the risk of your ballot becoming inactive. Rank candidates consecutively to be safe.

Q: What do I need to bring to vote?

DC does not require photo ID. You can present your name and address. For same-day registration, bring proof of residency.

Q: When and where can I vote?

Early voting: June 8–14 (8:30 AM – 7:00 PM daily). Election Day: June 16 (7 AM – 8 PM). Check dcboe.org for locations.

Q: Does my vote really make a difference?



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Yes. The people who win these races decide what happens with housing, jobs, healthcare, and the agencies you deal with every day. When returning citizens show up as informed, organized voters, elected officials must pay attention.



Sources & Verification

This voter guide is for informational and educational purposes only. It does not endorse any candidate or campaign.

Verification Sources

All candidate entries in this guide were verified against the following DC Board of Elections (DCBOE) documents on May 18, 2026:

- DCBOE List of Primary Election Candidates in Ballot Order
- DCBOE Scanned Ballot Lottery Control Sheets — Primary 2026
- DCBOE Scanned Ballot Lottery Control Sheet — Special Election 2026
- DCBOE Write-in Candidates List
- DCBOE Special Election Candidate Filing List

Additional candidate information was compiled from:

- Official candidate websites
- Public statements and press releases
- Local news reporting (Washington Post, DCist, Hill Rag, WJLA, FOX 5)
- Public questionnaires and voter guides from other organizations
- Campaign filings and publicly accessible records

Legal Authority for Ranked Choice Voting

Initiative 83 (D.C. Act 25-652), approved by DC voters in November 2024 and funded in the DC FY2026 budget. Full implementation details at dcboe.org/elections/ranked-choice-voting.

Information reflects what was publicly available as of May 18, 2026. Candidates may update or expand their platforms at any time. Where detailed positions were not available, that is noted. Readers are encouraged to visit each candidate's website for the most current information.

Your Vote, Your Voice

Whether this is your first time voting or you're a longtime participant, your voice matters. The people elected in this primary will make decisions about the systems that shape your life and your community.



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Need help? Contact the DC Board of Elections:

- Phone: (202) 727-2525 | Toll-free: 1-866-DC-VOTES (1-866-328-6837)
 - TTY: 711 (in DC) | 800-643-3768 (out of DC) | Spanish TTY: 800-546-7111
 - Address: 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003
 - Website: dcboe.org
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