



“Let’s Make It Happen Together”

Campaign Platform

(Change You Can Depend On)

Accountability in Government Change You Can Depend On: Given the recent disregard for and respect of the public by so many of our elected officials, I plan to bring accountability and responsibility to my position. I will work with my colleagues to ensure that our actions represent the will and desire of the people we were elected to serve; and I will work with the Mayor, whomever that person is, to help create an atmosphere of cooperation and respect amongst both branches of government.

Affordable Housing and Homeownership Change You Can Depend On: I will work to ensure that our affordable housing needs are met across this city. We must make sure that every resident has a decent and affordable place to live. I will assist community groups, government and individuals in developing the resources necessary to acquire housing that meets our needs and requirements, and assist in matching the resources with those needs.

A Government that listens to the People Change You Can Depend On: Too often the government says that it is listening to the concerns of the people, however, much too often it seems, government does not deliver on what the community is saying it needs or wants. I will make the commitment to listen to the people and act on matters which are in the interest of the people and the communities I serve.

Change You Can Depend On: We are in an era of change. Change from the status quo, to change toward the future yet to be seen. I believe that when we commit to change that it is something we must be able to depend on. While some change we might be able to predict, there are also some changes we can’t know the outcome. However, I stand on the commitment that whatever change we engage in or make it will be change that is well thought out and measured. The change we embrace will be change we can depend on for the future betterment of our city and our residents.

Cooperative and Collaborative Problem Solving Change You Can Depend On: Our government and community leaders serve the same consumers, many of whom care about the same issues. Therefore, I want to create government-community partnerships whereby, the government works closely with community leaders in assisting with solving community problems. It’s my hope that these collaborations will bring about cooperative and responsible relationships both at the community level and at-large.



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Development of a Downtown, Handicap and Neighborhood Parking Plan Change You Can Depend On: It is important that we begin to revisit the parking regulations throughout our city. We must look at parking issues from the Downtown Business Districts during rush hour to the front of schools where there is no handicap parking for the disabled. I am willing take to look at the disparities in our city when it comes to neighborhood parking and work with my neighbors across this city to implement fair parking policies for all.

Diversity and Inclusiveness Change You Can Depend On: Our communities have changed in so many ways. We have a tremendous opportunity to showcase the variety of cultures, traditions and people of our city. I believe that by bringing together all of the residents in this “city of magnificent intentions” that we will demonstrate the love, compassion and heart of all of DC. It is my true belief that our city has the potential of being that city that embraces and supports all of its residents.

Employment and Training for All Change You Can Depend On: With the current report showing that over 12% of District residents are unemployed and 28% in some sections of the city, I plan to work with workforce development programs provided by the District and many of our local merit shop contractors and unions to ensure that our residents are taking full advantage of these free services and training opportunities. I also want to develop collaborations with employers that will allow our residents to become gainfully employed. DC Jobs for DC Residents!

Effective and Compassionate Decision Making Change You Can Depend On: We are living in a time when decisions must be made quickly and strategically. There will be decisions made that deal with budgetary matters and decisions made which impact the lives of people. Regardless of what we must decide, it is important that we take into account how these decisions affect the lives and well-being of others. I will not be afraid to make decisions but the decisions I make will be well thought out, effective and compassionate.

Fair and Equitable Distribution of Services Change You Can Depend On: I will ensure that the distribution of services to the residents of our city is done in a fair and equitable manner. No longer will certain parts of our city be neglected or deprived of what should automatically be theirs. We will work to create formulas for equitable distribution of resources based on needs. It is important that we demonstrate to all our residents that everyone is just as important as the other and will receive fair and equitable support and services, and the best our city has to offer.

Health Care for All Change You Can Depend On: I will work with the existing healthcare programs to promote healthcare information in the community. In order to



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get all DC residents signed up for healthcare, I will work with all of our community based organizations making sure that they incorporate in their outreach plans healthcare provider information. As a councilmember I will also work to ensure that the District of Columbia continues to provide Health Care for All.

HIV/AIDS Education, Prevention and Treatment for All Change You Can Depend On:

Most recently it has been reported that the District is number one in HIV/AIDS transmission and infection. Why is that the case? For starters we have not done the best in providing education, prevention and intervention services to our most vulnerable populations. Yes, while we can now say that we know what the problem is because of better testing and surveillance; in reality we should not have had the problem in the first place. We need to come up with a more realistic educational program in our schools, recreation centers and other gathering places for youth. We need to create a more relevant media campaign using real people who are infected with the virus to speak out about its impact on their lives. Among other initiatives there should be HIV/AIDS Health Teams dispersed throughout the city, during the day and at night with information about testing, counseling and care services available in the District.

Integrity in City Hall Change You Can Depend On: We must continue to demand transparency in city government. I will work to make sure that we keep our citizens informed concerning all matters of government. Matters ranging from procurements to education, street repairs, housing and building construction, our residents must be informed and included in these decisions. I believe in bottom up, not top down government. Government is for and by the people and I will work to ensure that we keep true to that philosophy and belief.

Positive and Motivating Attitude Change You Can Depend On: Over the years, I have worked with a lot of people from the back streets of our city to the board rooms of corporate America. I have encouraged young men to do the right things and get their lives on track, and I have motivated corporate executives to share their resources with various segments of our community. It has been quite rewarding to see young people whom I’ve mentored go on to college or find a career in the vocational trades. It has also been truly fulfilling to be part of corporate decisions which have resulted in the creation of two community based resource centers located in Ward Eight, and an Academy of Construction and Design located in one of our local high schools located in Ward One.

Progressive Education Reform Change You Can Depend On: Teachers have been laid off; students are dropping out left and right, and many of our parents and grandparents are suffering from educational deficiency. In 2007, DC Learns reported that 37% of



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the adult population in the District was illiterate, these rates are unacceptable and I want to do something about it. I want to fight for progressive education reform in our schools, this includes, working to revamp our curriculum so that our children can compete with their private and catholic school counterparts, and also protect the rights of teachers, counselors and school support staff.

This also means creating community schools with extended hours, a full staff that includes a community and parent liaison to foster and address not only the needs of the community, but those of the parents and other caregivers of our children. With the extended hours, we will be able to address the needs of our parents and work closer with our community leaders and members to provide the necessary educational assistance that many families need to become successful; including, literacy development, job readiness, and other needs that are necessary for survival.

Small Business Development Change You Can Depend On: I will work to make sure that small business is appreciated and supported by our government. I will work to make sure that government opens up the opportunities for entrepreneurs, and works side by side with those who want to open businesses in our city. I will sponsor legislation which gives incentives to those wanting to locate to our neighborhoods, and will work with our neighbors to identify and determine what businesses they want in their neighborhoods. I will fight for a vibrant neighborhood based development plan that encourages neighborhood revitalization.

Support for the Homeless Change You Can Depend On: I believe that we must create strong support systems for those who are homeless. I will work with homeless advocates and service providers in addressing the many issues confronting the homeless in our city. I will assist in developing a comprehensive Homeless Educational and Training Facility in the city. No longer will those in shelters be left to aimlessly walk the streets during the day. The building of this facility will guarantee that all men and women who are homeless will have a place to get their GED, High School Diploma, Work Ready Certificate and any other certification needed to effectively transition into an independent living situation.

Support for Senior Citizens Change You Can Depend On: Our Seniors should have the best transportation service, the most efficient access to medical care, and a better prescription distribution system. They should have a more a caring and attentive government, along with support from the community. Their should be more intergenerational programs which help to bridge the relationship between seniors and youth, and a business community that sponsors initiatives aimed at supporting seniors through goods, services and other amenities.



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Support for the Formerly Incarcerated Change You Can Depend On: Everyone is entitled to a second chance in life. I believe it is also our responsibility as a society to rehabilitate our citizens who transgress the law and assist them in reentering back into community. We must therefore provide them with comprehensive services, training and opportunities that will help them in their transition back into society. I pledge to do all that I can to make those transitions real and long lasting. Building the Bellevue Reentry Center located in Ward 8 is one of my first projects in support of those coming home from incarceration. I promise to always look for ways we can support our returning citizens.

Support for Youth Cultural and Recreational Programs Change You Can Depend On: We don’t listen to our youth. We have to allow the young people to guide their program development. We can offer them advice, bring resources along side their vision, aspirations and needs, but they have to design and plan their future in this City. Youth programs should not be limited to their respective neighborhoods, but should have a broad reaching impact on their lives. We should help them to touch other parts of the city and embrace other cultures and people in a more realistic and honest manner.

Support for Traditional Marriage Change You Can Depend On: I stand on the belief and remain today reinforced in my belief that marriage should be between a man and woman, a husband and a wife. I thank God that we live in America and I am entitled to my belief without fear of being demonized and it is said that I am a hater or a bigot. Equally so, I believe that others are entitled to express their beliefs and opinions without fear of being demonized. I implore everyone, on both sides of the issue, to debate the issues and not one another. I will not participate in divisive and unproductive discourse. It is mindless, leads us constructively no where while solving nothing. We live in America and are all entitled to our differing opinions. The people must be heard. **Let the people decide!!!**

Visionary Leadership Change You Can Depend On: I believe that my work in the City has demonstrated my ability to look beyond the problem. I have been able to create some long lasting solutions and approaches to some of our most pressing issues. For many years I have demonstrated visionary leadership ranging from homelessness, racial relations, youth violence, employment/training, HIV/AIDS, affordable housing and re-entry for the formerly incarcerated. I have either developed or been involved in developing programs that have benefited thousands of District residents over the years and will continue to work finding solutions on behalf of all our residents, building bridges and creating a city that is welcoming and supportive of all.