

### Ward 3 Candidate for DC Council

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<b>On a scale of 1 to 100: Do you agree with this statement? The primary public agency responsible for the socio-emotional problems of children and youth caused and exacerbated by the pandemic should be the DCPS public schools.</b>	80
<b>Teacher turnover in DC's public schools are among the highest in the nation, and the pandemic has made teaching even more challenging. What do you think can be done to address teacher turnover in DCPS?</b>	
DCPS teachers are amongst the highest paid teachers in the nation. Yet turnover is also high. We must conduct a confidential review with our teachers as to why they are leaving the profession. Clearly schools must be safe places to learn and work. They should be structurally sound and protected within by resource officers. We must increase our supply of workforce housing so that teachers are under less economic pressure. We could also provide our teachers with a special deduction vs their District of Columbia taxes if they are DC residents.	
<b>The pandemic has highlighted the need to provide equitable student access to technology as part of a 21st-century education. What will you do to ensure DCPS supports comprehensive technology planning and funding to support student learning?</b>	
Technological teaching platforms in DC public schools should be comparable to that in private schools, Maryland schools, and Virginia schools. DCPS must continue to be well funded. Education and public safety are the two most important functions of local government. Having said this, technological mediums are not a replacement for in school learning and social support. We must keep our schools open.	
<b>DCPS school communities have concerns with the quality of building repair and maintenance including HVAC systems in older as well as newly modernized buildings. How can the Council address their concerns with DCPS facilities operations and maintenance?</b>	
DC Government has been aggressively re-investing in school buildings and infrastructure. We must continue to do that. The contracting guidelines should be transparent and written so that contracts are competitive and affordable. The Council in its oversight capacity must ensure that our tax dollars are well invested in the school system.	

<b>The financial outlook for the District has been impacted by the public health crisis, previous years of strong economic growth, and federal Rescue Plan funds. What do you think the three greatest fiscal challenges for D.C. public education will be over the next four years?</b>	
1)DC’s population is now decreasing. 2) Downtown is no longer generating robust sales tax returns and office real estate values are declining. 3) The entire DC budget will be under severe strain in the next four years. We must be prepared to cut and eliminate duplicative and ineffective areas of government. I am the only person running for Council from Ward 3 who recognizes this challenge and has the guts to be assertive in this department. There are no sacred cows other than the school system and MPD.	
<b>Check on the statement below that best describes your position:</b>	
<b>I think D.C. policies should prioritize the DCPS system of by-right neighborhood schools.</b>	
<b>I think D.C. policies should prioritize parental choice.</b>	x
<b>Explain:</b> Unfortunately, the question provides a false choice. Ward 3 residents appreciate their neighborhood schools. However, they also understand that school choice and the charter school system in the District help provides healthy competition in all eights wards of Washington, DC.	
<b>ON a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the strongest How strongly do you agree with this statement: The most effective system to ensure equitable quality for students and communities is a system of well-planned and supported DCPS feeder schools of right.</b>	2
<b>On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the strongest, how strongly do you agree with this statement: PK4 students should be able to enroll by-right into their neighborhood DCPS elementary schools.</b>	2
<b>Will you support convening a student assignment and boundary review process to be completed by 2023?</b>	Yes
<b>Comments, if any: We must do this as populations change in all 8 wards. The lottery and school choice are important; however, neighborhoods are enhanced by good neighborhood as well.</b>	
<b>Should DCPS have budget protections because of its responsibilities as the school system-of-right?</b>	No
<b>Comments:</b> Although I support neighborhood schools, the DCPS budget must be taken as a whole. The success of the school system in Wards 7 and 8 helps the system in wards 1 and 2, and vice versa and throughout the District.	
<b>The DC Council transferred responsibility for school security in DCPS schools from MPD back to DCPS; DCPS will control its security guard contract this year; and MPD School Resource Officers will be reduced. How should the Council determine whether students are more safe and secure?</b>	
First, we must keep better records of truancy and juvenile crime from one year to the next. In the last two years children have not attended school enough and juvenile crime has risen. Second, we should return the contract to MPD, and the number of school resource officers should be increased back to prior levels. Reducing the number of school resource officers was a mistake.	

<b>Do you support any changes in the way the District of Columbia governs public education?</b>	No
<b>What governance reforms would you support for DCPS?</b>	
<b>A DCPS education policy board, appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by Council, with authority to hire and fire the chancellor.</b>	Would oppose
<b>An elected DCPS education policy board of education, independent of the Mayor.</b>	Would oppose
<b>Other governance reforms that you would consider or support for DCPS:</b> I support mayoral control of our school system. We do not need new boards that will make getting things done more complicated and costly.	
<b>What governance reforms would you support for the State Board of Education and the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE)?</b>	
<b>State Board of Education with authority to hire and fire the State Superintendent of Education.</b>	Would oppose
<b>State Board of Education with authority to initiate policy--not just approve it--in areas it already has jurisdiction over.</b>	Would oppose
<b>Other ideas you would consider or support for SBOE and/or OSSE:</b>	
<b>What governance changes would you consider or support for the D.C. Council?</b>	
<b>An Education Committee for the Council of the District of Columbia.</b>	Would support
<b>Council control over the level of charter enrollment and the number of charter schools.</b>	Would consider
<b>Other changes you would consider or support D.C. Council governance of public education:</b> Autonomous Public Charter schools are an integral part of our school offerings in the District of Columbia. More effective Council Oversight can help DCPS and the Public Charter Schools consistently improve.	
<b>What governance reforms would you support for the Public Charter School Board (PCSB)?</b>	
<b>An elected Public Charter School Board.</b>	Would oppose
<b>Public Charter School Board appointed by Ward Councilmembers and 3 at-large members appointed by the Mayor.</b>	Would consider
<b>Other reforms you would consider or support for PCSB:</b>	