

2022 League of Women Voters Questionnaire
DC Council At-Large Election
Karim D. Marshall Responses

This is the most important step to help your voters learn more about you and your campaign. All candidates in your race will receive the same questions to answer. Please try to answer all of the questions below.

What are your top 2 priorities and how will you accomplish them?

As the next At-Large Councilmember I will focus on delivering equitable outcomes in both housing and education as those areas drive our residents' belief in the fairness of the government and the system as a whole, affecting employment rates and consequently crime rates.

I believe that our most important issues are interrelated and affect each other. I will prioritize public safety, mental health, and employment, but my top two priority issues will be 1) expanding the volume of and quality of Housing and 2) improving the quality of Education for all of our learners.

Learn more about the Campaign's priorities here: <https://www.marshallfordc.com/priorities>

If you agree that DC should be admitted to the union, what immediate actions can you take to prepare for statehood? If you disagree, what is your plan for achieving full voting rights for DC?

The people of DC are ready to become the Douglas Commonwealth. We have a plan that has been approved by residents, the time is now. We have been denied full and fair representation in our national government for far too long. This is a civil rights issue!

How do you propose to increase housing for the most vulnerable residents?

Read more about my position on housing: <https://www.marshallfordc.com/affordable-housing>

We must build more housing! We are seeing the consequences of a housing market failure in high rent and unobtainable purchase prices. There are more than 10,000 vacant units in the District that can be turned into affordable housing if we act in a comprehensive manner.

As Councilmember I would work with the relevant agencies to increase the transparency and coordination of home ownership and home construction incentive/subsidy programs. I would increase home affordability through automatic enrollment in subsidy programs based on the information contained in DC-40s instead of requiring additional applications and overhauling HPAP.

What is your plan to improve the safety of DC residents?

We have to be honest with our residents. They are worried about being the victims of violent crime and looking for their representatives to provide real answers to improve their quality of life. As Councilmember, I would pair accountability with comprehensive approaches to rehabilitation that will lower the occurrence of crime and prevent recidivism. Read more about my approach to public safety here: <https://www.marshallfordc.com/public-safety>

What are your ideas for improving outcomes for youth in the justice system?

The most effective way to reduce crime is to eliminate the causes of crime and encourage accountability. That means creating job, business, and education opportunities. That also means eliminating entrenched poverty and hopelessness.

However, the youth justice system is explicitly rehabilitative. But, because of a lack of focus on accountability paired with a lack of resources to redirect and rehabilitate youthful offenders, the District has instead created a system where youth see their actions lack consequences or impact. We should be deliberate about driving rehabilitation. That means making sure that any youth who commit crimes are reformed during a custodial period and their home environments are comprehensively restored in time to allow the youth to return to a healthy and safe environment.