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WAMU 88.5 FM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

My name is Patrick Mara and I am running for DC Council At-Large.

Please limit your responses to 100 words. Any responses beyond the 100 word limit will be cut due to space limitations.

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Washington, D.C. and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Through the Hoop Dreams scholarship fund, I mentored three local high school students at H.D. Woodson, Ballou and Banneker Schools. My interaction with these young men taught me some of the challenges facing the District's youth. Through that experience I learned the importance of education reform and providing opportunities for these young people when they finish school. The biggest challenge outside of education reform is reigning in spending. Our taxes are far too high and the budget increased 51% in the last four years. We need to be attracting residents to the District rather than forcing them out to Virginia (*response cut to comply with 100 word limit*).

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Certainly the overall state of the economy is the major problem impacting the U.S. domestically. Here in the District, citizens and small businesses need tax and regulatory relief. We need to encourage folks to spend their money inside DC. We do not live in a vacuum and it is very easy for residents to cross state lines to save a few dollars. With regard to education, as a Council, we need to help Mayor Fenty and Chancellor Rhee in their efforts to reform the schools. Certainly we need to encourage parental choice in education here in the District as well.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

The late Senator John H. Chafee (R) who I worked under as a staffer for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. As a moderate, he understood well when to take a principled stand and when to compromise. He also knew how to listen and learn from all sides to understand the viewpoints of all stakeholders. This is a mindset I would carry with me as an At-Large Member of the Council.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent the city as an At-Large Member of the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

As a new face in the DC political scene, I offer a fresh perspective on the issues impacting District residents. With over a decade of advocacy and public policy experience here in the District, I will make life in DC better for all residents. I have a B.S. in environmental science and political science and an MBA with an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

5. How long have you lived in Washington, D.C. and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of local residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I have lived in Washington, DC, for over a decade. For the last four and a half years I've owned a residence in Columbia Heights. My home had previously been an abandoned building where junkies would do drugs. At the time, there were five other abandoned residences on my street. Over the course of several years all those residences are now filled with families and professionals and the number of small businesses and retail in my neighborhood has grown substantially. On the down-side, property taxes are rising and with every Council session it becomes more difficult for small businesses to *(response cut to comply with 100 word limit)*.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Benjamin Franklin An American Life by Walter Isaacson.

b) My favorite television show/movie is Lost (I watch via Netflix since I do not view much TV).

c) In my spare time I love to enjoy all that DC has to offer or go mountaineering/hiking outside of the District.

Thanks so much for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire; your answers will be shared with the WAMU audience.



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My name is CAROL SCHWARTZ and I am running for DC COUNCIL, AT-LARGE.

Please limit your responses to 100 words. Any responses beyond the 100 word limit will be cut due to space limitations.

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Washington, D.C. and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Two large challenges are to remain fiscally stable, and to prepare our children and residents for productive lives – and livelihoods. Our fiscal situation is complicated by our status as a city without state support, plus the restrictions we have on growth because of finite land and height limitations on buildings, as well as the fact that we are prohibited by Congress from taxing income at its source. Fiscal stability requires strong oversight of government functions to avoid duplication and waste, and the courage to make tough decisions when required. Education and job training should be well-funded, and they are now.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

I think an important, big challenge for the United States is recognizing how hypocritical it looks by promoting democracy around the world while denying it to the nearly 600,000 residents of the Capital of the Free World, and to – finally, all these generations later – rectify this abominable injustice by giving the District of Columbia the right to vote in the United States Congress. Another challenge is working for a more stable, peaceful, and prosperous world, where self-determination is the norm. I am proud to be involved with Vital Voices, a DC-based non-profit dedicated to mentoring women leaders in emerging democracies.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

My local hero was Walter Washington, DC's first elected Mayor. In 1974, in the District's first Home Rule election, I had the distinct honor of being elected to the Board of Education at the same time Mayor Washington won office. He was a uniting force who actually helped bring us Home Rule, and was a smart, kind, and honorable man. My all-time hero was Winston Churchill, whose words have always helped to rally me: "Never give in – never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense."



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent the city as an At-Large Member of the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

I have the courage to speak out about injustices and inadequacies in government, and the conviction to tackle issues – even when it goes against the tide and, in some cases, I am the only one doing so. I have a long history of proven results, which have led to a better city and more accountability in government. I love DC, its people and its diversity. I have always had the desire – and the ability – to bring people together, both personally and professionally, to enrich lives and celebrate our diversity, and have done so. I also try to balance divergent interests.

5. How long have you lived in Washington, D.C. and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of local residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I moved here in January of 1966. I have seen some sad times – the riots following Dr. King’s assassination in 1968, and the city’s slide into fiscal crisis in the 1990’s, when I was not on the Council. But DC is made of many resilient people who, like me, are both passionate and loyal. We have rallied, and I am proud to have played a role in our dramatic turnaround from that near bankruptcy in the mid-1990s, to ten straight years of balanced budgets. Today, DC is a vibrant city, and I will work to ensure that it remains so.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was: *Ball of Fire: The Tumultuous Life and Comic Art of Lucille Ball*, given to me by my daughters for Mother’s Day.

b) My favorite television show/movie is: On TV, *Law & Order* (all versions, but I like the original best), and my all-time favorite movie is *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

c) In my spare time I love to: Who has spare time? But when I do have some, I love to go for a stroll in Adams Morgan, near my home, or in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; drive my six-gear, bright yellow convertible; and play ping-pong and bridge.

Thanks so much for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire; your answers will be shared with the WAMU audience.