



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
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Responses from Ward 6 candidates (in alphabetical order, by party)

Curtis L. Etherly, Jr. (Democrat) <http://www.curtis2006.org>

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

Education and public safety. Many of the Ward's youngest residents and adults remain severely hampered by a failing educational system. I would advocate for more standards-based reform and innovation amongst both traditional and charter public schools, increased utilization of school buildings as centers of community life and Ward-based business partnerships to better connect schools and communities with economic opportunities. Regarding public safety, while an increased police presence must be part of the toolkit, I would also push for a greater commitment to community policing via a reorganization plan emphasizing decentralization, better deployment strategies and more street-level decision-making autonomy.

2. How has your Ward changed since you moved into it (or in the past 10 years)? Explain whether you feel the change has been good or bad for the community, and why. (Maximum 100 words)

Over the past ten years, new residential development and a vibrant housing market have brought thousands of new residents of all economic and social stripes into Ward Six with new retail in both traditional and nontraditional commercial corridors. This growth has been earmarked by both good and bad consequences. On the positive side, this growth has contributed to an increased diversification of the residential base – combining both longtime District residents with new ones. Of significant concern, however, is the significant displacement of low and moderate income residents as a result of higher living costs (including housing expenses) throughout the Ward.

3. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent your Ward on the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

Experience #1: Public/Private experience. As a former Council staffmember, I have substantive experience with the District government. Experienced in the private sector, I bring an understanding of local and regional business as an attorney and former advocate on behalf of the business community. Experience #2: Nonprofit/Community experience: I chair the



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Board for a successful Ward Six charter school recognized by Newsweek as one of the country's top 1,200 public high schools. I possess considerable board experience with local organizations working to improve the lives of District residents, including DC Appleseed, the Greater Washington Urban League and DC Action for Children.

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

In terms of a local political figure, I greatly admire Ralph W. "Petey" Greene. Controversial, outspoken and unapologetic in his efforts on behalf of the dispossessed and disenfranchised, Mr. Greene was one of the first people that I remember as a child – in addition to my parents – who made being a Washingtonian a source of pride. Nationally, I admire a heroine who now calls Ward Six home – Dr. Dorothy I. Height of the National Council of Negro Women. A standard-bearer for justice, equality and freedom, Dr. Height epitomizes self-sacrifice in the name of service to others for what is right.

5. Fill in the following blanks (no more than two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was The Art of Worldly Wisdom by Baltasar Gracián (proudly purchased on H Street NE at the Reader's Lounge).

b) My favorite television shows (tie) are the now-defunct West Wing and HBO's The Wire. My favorite movie is Glory.

c) In my spare time I love to play tennis, golf and go snowboarding.



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Leo Pinson (Democrat) <http://www.pinson2006.com>

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

Education reform is number one. I will work with DCPS to integrate “Comprehensive Social Services (CSS)” into our schools. CSS provides the principal with social workers, case managers, psychologists, and other professionals, working as a team to address the root causes of child and family deficiencies. With CSS, literacy education, vocational training, and job and life skills preparation would be available in our neighborhood schools, for all ages. In addition, the excess space in schools could be used as clinics, staffed by doctors from our teaching hospitals, providing care for children and adults. Affordable housing is the second challenge.

2. How has your Ward changed since you moved into it (or in the past 10 years)? Explain whether you feel the change has been good or bad for the community, and why. (Maximum 100 words)

The ward has changed significantly. The northwest neighborhoods, closest to Penn Quarter and Chinatown, and other isolated developments, have seen the creation of a large number of condos. Affordable housing has decreased. Many neighborhoods have seen an influx of empty nesters and young adults, which has created tensions between longtime residents and newcomers, and the lack of affordable housing is making the ward less racially and economically diverse. Overtime the shrinking mix of races and incomes I fear could make Ward 6 seem like an elitists place to live, like Georgetown, instead of being viewed as an inviting, diverse community.

3. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent your Ward on the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

I have demonstrated the ability to manage the affairs of Ward 6, and resolved numerous problems when I was the Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator. From working with residents, stakeholders, community-based organizations, and others, I have broad knowledge of the people and issues. I also have a long list of accomplishments that demonstrate my ability to lead others, create partnerships, use city resources effectively, and get tangible results. My experience is second to none. I also support the community as a licensed substitute teacher, Volunteer Advocate for Abused and Neglected Children, and volunteer police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department.



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

People can say what they want about Bill Clinton's personal choices, but as President he did a very good job running this country. During his presidency sound economic policies overcame the significant deficits created under Republican rule. Diplomatic relationships and respect for America was improved throughout the world. Many Americans believed in government and felt that their own life was going to improve under his leadership. Clinton's intellect was without question, and repeatedly, despite the best efforts of numerous enemies in this town, his Administration was able to create bi-partisan alliances and get the peoples business completed.

5. Fill in the following blanks (no more than two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was The Da Vinci Code.

b) My favorite television show/movie is What Not To Wear.

c) In my spare time I love to be outdoors bicycling, sailing, skydiving, in-line skating, or inside drumming.



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Tommy Wells (Democrat) <http://www.WellsForWard6.com>

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

Development: Ward 6 is a hub of economic activity. With the new development going on in our neighborhoods, I will insist that it serves the interests of residents. Community involvement is the best way to ensure that every neighborhood creates and preserves affordable housing and gets the services and amenities it needs.

Reforming our schools: I will continue fighting to build state-of-the-art public school facilities with top-notch principals to run them. I will bring city agencies together to transform schools into neighborhood centers for community life - coordinating school rehabilitation with planning for a variety of community amenities and services.

2. How has your Ward changed since you moved into it (or in the past 10 years)? Explain whether you feel the change has been good or bad for the community, and why. (Maximum 100 words)

Since the mid-1980s, I've seen it change for the worse and change back for the better. I helped lead the community as an ANC commissioner at a time when some wanted to remove our public assets to fight homelessness and poverty. I chose a different way – bringing the community and government agencies together to build constructive solutions for all. Today, we're seeing rapid change across the Ward. We've added amenities and can walk to more in our neighborhoods than ever before. The biggest challenge this community faces is ensuring this development protects, improves and expands these assets for every resident.

3. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent your Ward on the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

With a 23-year record of leading and working with the Ward 6 community to benefit every citizen, I've solved difficult problems and built strong relationships throughout our ward and city.

I know how to make tough choices about budget cuts and ensure fiscal responsibility – I was instrumental in balancing the budget of the DC Public Schools each of the last five years. I know how to legislate – while directing the Consortium for Child Welfare I led the rewriting of



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our city's child welfare laws. These skills are crucial to providing the accountability and leadership Ward 6 needs on City Council.

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

I greatly admire Clarence Darrow. He argued and fought for those that could not speak for themselves. And he always had an incredibly optimistic view of the positive evolution of American society.

5. Fill in the following blanks (no more than two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was The Kite Runner.

b) My favorite television show/movie is The Daily Show.

c) In my spare time I love to play basketball at Results the Gym.



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Tony Williams (Republican) <http://www.ward6fortonywilliams.com>

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

Beginning with the ambitious development initiative along the Southwest Waterfront and H street, moving to a chronically underperforming public school system and ending with a police department that would rather ignore criminals than catch them, the list of challenges facing Ward 6 is innumerable. However the most urgent problem facing my community is a lack of a voice in how the city will confront these challenges. I will give Ward 6 that voice by passing legislation to empower ANC's, by being available to residents, and by being present in the community.

2. How has your Ward changed since you moved into it (or in the past 10 years)? Explain whether you feel the change has been good or bad for the community, and why. (Maximum 100 words)

Ward 6 is the center of on-going development in the District, so you don't just see changes year to year, but day to day. Development has brought many good things to the community – a revitalized business community, safer streets and neighborhoods, and new neighbors. However our current leaders have let development lead them, rather than them leading the development. As a result the majority of long-time Ward 6 residents have been not only been ignored, but also pushed out by development. As a Ward 6's councilman I will make sure developers don't just build houses, but communities.

3. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent your Ward on the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)

At the Department of Veterans Affairs I was part of a team that oversaw and managed the VA's switch from large-scale hospitals to community health-care clinics. It is this same type of switch the District government must make in order to bring health care to all of its residents and to confront the burgeoning HIV problem. In the U.S. Senate I worked to pass pro-growth legislation that expanded the economy and created jobs by empowering the small-business community through public-private partnerships, tax incentives, and innovative financing options.



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

The political figure who I admire the most is Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King had the conviction to stand up and fight for his beliefs against all odds. In addition Dr. King never saw himself as a victim, but took responsibility for his own fate and taught the importance of self-empowerment and self-reliance to the black community.

5. Fill in the following blanks (no more than two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell.

b) My favorite television show/movie is The Third Man by Orson Wells

c) In my spare time I love to play soccer, basket-ball, and ice-hockey.