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## **Responses from Ward 5 Candidates (in alphabetical order, by party):**

**Kathy Henderson (Democrat) <http://www.kathyhendersonforward5.com>**

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

Ward 5 has the third highest crime rate in the city, underscoring one of the greatest challenges facing the Ward. Reducing crime requires more than policing. I have worked effectively with police and District and Federal partners to reduce the signposts of neglect that attracts criminals. I partnered with 5D to implement “Landlord Roundtable” meetings to hold property owners accountable for nuisance issues and criminal tenants. The strategy works; crime in my area is 50% lower than when I took office.

If elected I will maximize my oversight role to ensure DCPS spends resources appropriately to educate our children.

### **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 5 is beginning to garner greater attention and the issue of excessive industrial zoning is gaining more attention. We enjoy new economic development opportunities and are on the horizon of exploring economic development opportunities that really serve citizen’s interests.

My community has changed dramatically from one that was plagued by violence to a community that now supports a much improved quality of life. If elected, I will conduct an assessment of every ward 5 neighborhood to improve quality of life issues by promoting greater agency responsiveness. Ward 5 must keep pace with improvement in other areas of our city.

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

I understand the District Government and how to get things done with few resources. I have successfully facilitated the installation of new sidewalks, trees alleys and roadways and streetlights.



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I am a certified mediator and have a proven ability to work effectively with the Executive Office of the Mayor and the City Council. I am responsible for the creation of Bill 16-0335 “Protection of Public Officials and Government Employees Act of 2005”, which is part of the “Omnibus Public Safety Act”. This is quite an accomplishment.

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

I admire Mayor Williams for solidly leading the District Government out of fiscal insolvency and making District agencies more accountable to citizens. I have been a resident of this city for twenty-five years and I believe our government is more responsive to our needs than ever before.

I also admire Mayor Williams for gracefully responding to criticism, without rancor or bitterness and continuing to move forward with serving citizens. Pleasing over a half of a million citizens is a tough job for anyone and Mayor Anthony A. Williams has served the District well.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** “Man in a Cage” by Walter Mosley.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** The Apprentice.

**c) In my spare time I love to** plan home improvement and gardening projects.



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**Regina James (Democrat) <http://www.Regina2006.com>**

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

Two of the biggest challenges are crime/public safety and education. I have spent over 3 years patrolling a psa because of the malignancy that was occurring in our community. And i achieved and resolved to cut-down on illicit activity within our neighborhood, and was determined to do so. Success in this effort requires that one must be a full participant, and must be an advocate for your community to reduce crime within the ward.

Education: outside of providing strong oversight, i will visit our schools to see if we are meeting the needs of our children.

**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)**

Bitter sweet: the Brentwood community still dealing with the trash transer station. In 100 degree heat, the government workers that work outside go home early. But the people who live within close proximity to Brentwood trash transfer station have no place to go.

The late councilmember Harry Thomas dceived us and said '*it would be a recycling station.*' But it became a full-blown trash transfer station. And current councilman Orange has not provided leadership in this area. Promises were made and promises were broken. However, we have Giant and Home Depot that brings its own set of opportunities and challenges.

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

1. Ability to galvanize people, work with a cadre of leaders ranging from Mayor, to City Council, Congress, Senate, when leading an effort. As proof, Brooklyn Community Development Corporation presented award to me which read" UNIMPEACHABL INTEGRITY, AN ADMIRABLE SENSE OF OUTRAGE IN THE FACE OF ANY WRONG OR INJUSTICE, AND HER TIRELESS WORK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HER COMMUNITY. Presented for my leadership to successfully stop the SLOT INITIATIVE AND VIOLATION OF ZONING LAWS from coming to Ward 5; 2. My experiences with boldness and bravery in personally PATROLLING NEIGHBORHOODS reporting crime to MPD makes me qualified.



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

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who wrote "I can never be what I ought to be, until you are what you ought to be. This is the way a world is made. No individual or nation can stand up boasting of being independent, we are interdependent." Dr. King was a champion for justice. He died helping the least of the little ones, trash workers in Memphis. He died helping those who didn't know how to help themselves. I try to take on the character of Dr. King everyday, he is my role model.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY **by** Connie Briscoe.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** "Imitation of Life" **Get out the tissue!**

**c) In my spare time I love to read.**



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**Ron Magnus (Democrat) <http://www.MagnusforWard5.com>**

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

The Top Five Priorities in our ward are “Excellence in Public Education, Accountability in Public Safety, Affordable Housing, Creating Jobs tied to Economic Development and Affordable Health care.” In public education, accountability through the Council’s budget oversight authority is paramount. I will establish a strong relationship with our Ward 5 schools, visiting all our schools regularly and holding our principals, teachers, students and parents to greater accountability. We must fight for greater accountability in public safety with legislation to mandate the hiring and placement of “Community Police Officers”. Let’s get back to the basics by putting our police in our **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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 5 is undergoing dramatic socio-economic change as rapid gentrification; rising real estate prices and explosive business development are literally re-constructing the face of this proud community. Ward 5 also represents some of the of worst social, health and economic indicators in the city - from rampant open air drug markets and crippling substance abuse to rising chronic and infectious disease. The paradox of Ward 5 is the fact that most of its residents have yet to realize a better quality of life amid an unprecedented economic boom in the District.

It represents a dramatic balancing act witnessed daily: prosperity **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

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

As a Washingtonian, former Assistant Attorney General in DC and with the last 7 years with District government experience, we will hit the ground running. I have worked with the Council before to write legislation and achieve consensus. Ward 5 cannot afford to wait on a novice to learn the system. Running little league baseball clinics or a business in Philadelphia will not prepare you. Ward 5 are deserves strong hands-on leadership and effective legislative advocacy. I am the only candidate with over 30 years of civic, community, legislative, legal, policy and political experience to lead the Ward 5 community **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**



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

My choice would have to be Sen. Barack Obama. With his gifts of eloquence and charisma, Sen. Obama is a genuine rising star. His election to the U.S. Senate from Illinois has catapulted him into the top ranks of Democratic leadership. Sen. Barack Obama has dedicated his life to public service as a community organizer, civil rights attorney and leader in the Illinois state Senate. Like Obama, I am very critical of George Bush and I too feel “the Iraq war is dumb.”

During the Senate recess, Senator Obama has been using his time to meet with constituents in Illinois. **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

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

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Letter to a Young Brother, Manifest your Destiny, by Actor/Activist Hill Harper.

b) My favorite television show/movie is The West Wing. It is refreshing In the midst of the Bush White House level of incompetence, illegality, ineptitude and ethical lapses.

c) In my spare time I love to read Black history, politics and current events and jogging.



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**Bruce A. Marshall (Democrat) <http://www.MarshallForWard5.com>**

**1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Ward 5, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)**

a. Uneven results in the education of our youth and adult populations is our biggest challenge. The Superintendent must provide technical and vocational training with certifications to ensure employability. Schools must be resource centers to provide lifetime learning opportunities for all city residents.

b. Public Safety in our city and neighborhoods is our next challenge. We need to evaluate the way that our crime fighting resources are deployed, improve on the use of technology especially to reduce car thefts, and make the replacement of street lights a public safety issue rather than just a public works issue.

**2. How has your ward changed since you moved into it? Explain whether you felt the change has been good or bad for the community, and why. (Maximum 100 words)**

Ward 5 was a community of strong neighborhood schools, strong families, and unique neighborhoods with distinctive architecture. Neighborhood schools in Ward 5 have declined and this has contributed to many families selling their longtime family homes to residents who are not dependent upon, or invested in our public school system. This has led to gentrification in some neighborhoods that has priced many longtime renters and homeowners out of the city. This displacement must be balanced with government innovation to maintain affordable housing alternatives. We must also stop the building of McMansions to maintain the character of our neighborhoods.

**3. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Ward 5 on the City Council. (Maximum 100 words)**

I am the only candidate who has actually worked for the D.C. Council, written and passed government contract reform legislation that is still the law of the city, run a legislative and Constituent Services staff benefiting Ward 5 citizens, and trained both university and high school interns in the legislative process. I have worked in leadership roles in all three branches of this government, including at the D.C. Courts and in the Executive Branch where I served as Director of the Department of Administrative Services. As an Architect I also bring unique skills to the Ward 5 Comprehensive Planning process.



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**4. Name a political figure who you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)**

I admire former President Jimmy Carter because of the efforts that he has made internationally to seek fair elections, and because of advocacy of building affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity.

**5. Fill in the following blanks:**

- a. **The most recent book I read and enjoyed was:** The Purpose Driven Life.
- b. **My favorite movie is:** Akeela and the Bee.
- c. **In my spare time I love to:** Renovate houses.



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## **Audrey Ray (Democrat)**

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

Equitable development and the DC Public Schools are the two biggest challenges facing Ward 5. Residents must have input and strong representation of their interests to balance commercial and economic development. Housing affordable to current residents is key and our children deserve a first class education to allow them to compete in this global economy.

I have lobbied the council and provided testimony at council hearings on behalf of residents. I have organized and worked with coalitions to address these issues. I will continue to provide the leadership, oversight and if necessary, legislation to address these issues.

### **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)**

As mentioned in Question #1, the commercial and economic development interests have overshadowed the needs and concerns of current residents. For example, the DC government had plans to eradicate homes in historic Ivy City without talking to the residents about what they wanted.

This is why we need council representatives who will better serve the people.

### **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 experience and relationships with the current council. I have relationships and experience working with coalitions that specialize on key issues such as housing and DC Public Schools. As a member of the Affordable Housing Alliance I worked on the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force. With the Ivy City Coalition, we were able to stop the city from eradicating housing in historic Ivy City and we obtained new housing affordable to the residents who live there now.



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

I greatly admire Julian Bond for his long standing courage, commitment and service to civil rights.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** It's Not About You, It's About God **by** Rebecca Florence Osaigboro.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** CSI:Las Vegas/A & E's version of "Pride & Prejudice."

**c) In my spare time I love to** play bid whist.



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**Deborah “Debbie” Smith (Democrat) <http://smithin06.com>**

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

The two biggest challenges facing my Ward are crime and affordable housing. If we are to effectively deal with crime then we need to address the root cause-youth. We need to give the youth alternatives from gangs, drugs and violence by providing community structured programs in our schools and recreation centers. We need to hold parents accountable for the criminal activity of their children. We need to work more effectively with our judicial system by mandating enforcement of existing laws. The Attorney General office needs to be more proactive and aggressive in handling drug infested open air drug markets, and **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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)**

My Ward has changed dramatically since I was born and raised. The sense of community has left and needs to be restored. I remember when I was growing up, everyone in the community would take an interest in what and how you were doing. Now, everyone is living behind closed doors and complaining, and unless an issue directly impacts them they will do nothing. This needs to change if we are to have clean, safe, and livable communities. As your Councilmember I will create venues for the residents to interact with each other, and I will hold each and everyone **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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 over 20 years of private sector experience with project management experience. I have been an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for 10 years who has established relationships with the city council, directors of agencies and the executive branch of government, too include, integrity and honesty that will hold government responsible for the needs of our ward and nothing less.

I am quite aware of how government currently works, and I am quite knowledgeable on policies, procedures and the current law. With my grassroots and private sector experience, I have the wherewithal to have government work for the people. **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**



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

Martin Luther King Jr. will always be my inspirational political figure. He was always about holding government responsible for doing the right thing for the people.

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

- a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** Aretha Franklin's Bio.
- b) My favorite television show/movie is** Law & Order / National Treasure.
- c) In my spare time I love** enjoying nature.



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**Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. (Democrat) <http://www.harrythomas5.com>**

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

Public safety and Education are two of our biggest challenges; I believe the city needs both more officers and improved deployment we need enough officers both to keep our residents safe and meet our unique public safety obligations as the Nation’s Capital. I firmly believe MPD management can be streamlined and more officers deployed to patrolling the streets.

I think there remains room for City Council representatives to exert leadership over the city’s schools through effective oversight, including holding hearings on issues as they arise and developing solutions to DCPS’s problems and retuning Vocational education for students and workforce housing **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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)**

I feel there has been a leadership gap for Ward 5, and that many of the problems and concerns of Ward 5 residents have not been addressed. My goal is to fill that leadership gap and solve the difficult, and often overlooked, problems that have been of concern to residents. For example, one long-time problem that has not been adequately addressed is the over-concentration of social service agencies in Ward 5. I look to tackle this and other long-standing problems.

**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 a strong professional background that includes serving as Vice President of Public Affairs at DC General Hospital. I have numerous characteristics that make me the most qualified candidate to serve as the Ward 5 representative on the DC City Council. First and foremost, I have a strong desire to be of service to the residents of Ward 5 these skills have been shown by me as an elected ANC and as grass roots community leader. I will bring to the office a willingness to listen to the problems and concerns of Ward 5 residents, and the willingness to **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**



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

Harry L. Thomas Sr. my father is who I admire most because I had total access to every part of his life and still marvel at the energy and commitment he gave to his fellow man through service. He was also my best friend and the best dad that anyone could have, he did more with a high school education and using common sense by being in tune with his community than any leader I know. His greatest asset was his compassion and work ethic that kept him grounded and humble and these are attributes that I strive to always **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** Behold a Pale horse.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** ESPN Sports Center.

**c) In my spare time I love to spend** family time.



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**Frank Wilds (Democrat) <http://www.frankwildsforward5.com>**

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

Crime in our area has jeopardized the quality of life along with the lack of employment and education for some citizens. As the Ward 5 Councilman, I would spearhead major crime summits throughout the communities to foster communication between the DC Metropolitan Police Department and the people. I see a need for an overall attitude change on the part of citizens and the police to resolve some of this criminal behavior. On the issue of employment and education, I would develop partnerships with local universities and trade schools to create a pipeline from high-school, to vocational programs and college, and **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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)**

One significant change has been diversity of the neighborhoods. This is favorable because it brings about respect for individual cultures. On the other hand, it may create a lack of a close community ties. In some situation where new businesses come into the neighborhoods, and the owners do not live in the neighborhood, I believe there is disconnect and a lack of proper respect rendered to the consumers. A great change has been the commercial growth with a Home Depot and the opening of a new Giant food chain on Rhode Island Ave. This has help with employment for many of **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

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

My organizational, political, and business skills will enable me to administer the needs for the citizens. I have twenty-five years as a businessman, combined with my political affiliations, which qualifies me to work effectively with members of the city council. As the prior chairman of the Democratic party, and the current vice chair, as well as being an ANC Commissioner, I know the level of performance it takes to achieve success as a team member.



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

I hold much admiration for the great Nelson Mandela because of his principles. As a young man, with such wisdom, he took on a moral obligation to fight for human rights and racial equality. I read in his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, that when he served time in prison he was able to tend and harvest a garden. Mandela compared the tending garden to his life. You plant a seed, watch it grown. He said: "A leader must also tend his garden; he, too, sows seeds, and then watches, cultivates and harvests the result." He's a success story.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was *Beyond Blame* by Armstrong Williams.**

**b) My favorite television show/movie is Cold Case.**

**c) In my spare time I love to travel.**



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**Vera Winfield (Democrat) <http://www.VeraWinfield.com>**

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

The two biggest challenges is community solidarity and education. The importance of community solidarity is to bridge the divide of concerns and interest between our communities and unify our differences and interest on a level playing field. Ward 5 is the largest ward in the city and building communications between the residents and government to resolve their issues of crime, education, housing and emergency response systems is imperative to insure quality of life many speak of. Education is a broad and intricate piece that will appeal to the education of our children, provide resources for employment and assist in our **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

**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)**

I have lived in Ward 5 my entire life and it has always been good. The only difference today than 10 years ago is our attempt to retain historical significance in many areas that are slated for change. The cost of housing, as a result of economic development and securing a tax base for a healthier budget, is the second most significant difference today. Thirdly, our schools that were ultimately fine institutions have been redefined as failing and in need of redevelopment. It would appear that this is a prime example of recreating the wheel rather than improving the parts.

**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 owned and operated my own barber shop in the District of Columbia for over 13 years. I have an abundance of experience in relating to the public, listening and advising many in life changing decisions. I have served on a regulatory board for over 7 years and helped to write regulations to improve the integrity of my profession. I have worked on Capitol Hill in both constituent services and legislative affairs. I have always had the ability to create good relationships, impeccable management skills, as well as, analytical abilities coupled with an abundance of logic and common sense **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**



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

There are three that I admire for the same reasons: Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy and Mahatma Ghandi. All three men sacrificed their life for the betterment of people.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** Lost Rights by James Bovard.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** a movie entitled Second Chance.

**c) In my spare time I love to** take long walks with my dog "Smokey".



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**Rae Zapata (Democrat) <http://RaeZapataWard5.com>**

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

Currently, our Ward is struggling with increased crime and a lack of positive outlets for our youth. To address these issues, I will demand and obtain the law enforcement and educational resources necessary to provide a safe and thriving community. I will get more officers on our streets to prevent and respond to crime. We are experiencing an increase in juvenile crime due to high drop out rates and lack of positive programming for young people. I support vocational training and educational programs to prepare youth to become productive members of our 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)**

Fifteen years ago, few homes were for sale. Since then, Ward 5 was discovered as the place where young professionals and families could afford to buy decent homes. The Ward has become more diverse racially and less diverse economically. Having lost residents on fixed incomes because of increased housing costs (rents & utilities) and older homeowners because of escalating property taxes and utilities, I am determined to ensure that those who were here prior to the real estate boom can enjoy the Ward's revitalization. Curtailing the cost of utilities to ensure the viability of our longtime residents is crucial.

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

First, I am a born leader who has extensive experience in resolving problems that our citizens face regarding city services. I am a constituent services guru. While working for the District Government, my division served over 500 people weekly. We never received any complaint for failure to respond to the constituents. Second, throughout my career I have worked tirelessly as a public servant, grassroots organizer and an attorney for abused and neglected children. I have experience in drafting legislation and testifying before the Council and have the knowledge and skills to be a seasoned legislator.



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

Barbara Jordan, a great orator, lawyer, professor, and congresswoman was one of the greatest leaders of our time. I admire her because she fought for the disenfranchised and was a trailblazer for black women and women in general. She was a woman of integrity, principals and backbone. In 1976, Barbara Jordan became not only the first black, but the first woman to ever deliver the key note address at the Democratic National Convention. We both grew up in the segregated south and succeeded despite the institution roadblocks that we have faced. She has been my inspiration and my hero.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** The Covenant with Black America by Tavis Smiley.

**b) My favorite television show is** Mystery Theatre and my favorite movie is Crash.

**c) In my spare time I love to** spend time with my two children. We enjoy swimming and sailing. They are the joy of my life and I would not trade any of my successes, accomplishments, or achievements for the joys of motherhood.



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**Philip Blair, Jr. (Statehood Green) <http://www.dcstatehoodgreen.org/>**

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

Excellent public schools and development in tune with Ward 5 needs and priorities. Public education will improve as public servants (elected and appointed) are required by parents and taxpayers to work together as a team, invested in each other's success and not in self-interested political manoeuvring. Development in Ward 5 has been a matter of big deals and public subsidies for corporations. This must change; small neighborhood businesses and construction projects serve us, house us, and hire us. They should not have to compete with publically subsidized national and multinational corporations.

**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)**

In my sixteen years in Ward 5, I have changed as I have been more and more fully involved in a vibrant, diverse, and caring community. In that time, we Ward 5 residents have progressively taken our future into our own hands. Rather than trust a mayor, a councilmember, or a dysfunctional one-party system to take care of our interests, we are demanding that our city government serve us. We are holding elected officials to account; demanding consultation from city government; and envisioning the future of the ward creatively and responsibly. Our elected leaders must catch up with us.

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

I am a member of the only party (D.C. Statehood-Green) which fearlessly addresses our two core political problems: the lack of statehood and self-determination (the greatest unresolved issue of the Civil Rights Movement); and a dysfunctional single party system.

I'm an ethnographer by training, not a pollster; I have learned to respect the wisdom of communities. I listen to and learn from my neighbors, and enjoy the give-and-take of civic life. I despise the kind of politicians who manipulate people on behalf of their campaign funders and who think that being smart is being good at hoodwinking communities.



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

Julius Hobson, founder of the D.C. Statehood Party, whose statue should be in Statuary Hall in the Capitol as a permanent rebuke to Congress for creating a democracy-free city for itself. Hobson never underestimated the forces he opposed, but always soldiered on with wisdom, cunning, creativity, and a sense of humor. He understood when legislation worked, and when it was time to change people's minds in other ways. He had a healthy ego but he never thought his work was all about him. He built institutions to carry on his work after he was gone (too early). He inspires still.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** (rereading) Flannery O'Connor, *Everything That Rises Must Converge*.

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** Dr. Strangelove (don't watch TV now, but I liked the Watergate hearings).

**c) In my spare time I love to** wash the dishes, make the bed, spoil my wife and daughter; also keep up with my academic interests: anthropology, linguistics, and the Andes.



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## Carolyn Steptoe (Statehood Green)

<http://www.electsteptoe2006@blogspot.com>

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

1. Unbridled economic development, We are experiencing unprecedented urban development. The continued and growing inequities in city services, particularly historically underserved residents are obvious byproducts of the development onslaught.

Require developers pay 'Impact Fees.' A one time, up-front fee paid by developer for impact of development on our roads, sewer system and infrastructure. Fees go directly into city budget as revenue.

2. Poor education creates joblessness, poverty and crime.

More funding to traditional DC public schools and UDC; new, state-of-the-art vocational-technical schools; moratorium on funding new charter schools. All measures will increase standard of living quality of life for residents.

### 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)

One continuum I see in Ward 5 is the impact of gentrification. Our city's gentrification strategies, like those in other urban cities, brought in new residents to live specifically in historically underserved communities. However, in Ward 5, like Wards 7 and 8, our communities' long-neglected needs remain abysmal and ignored. The deplorable conditions of public schools, the current AIDS epidemic, homelessness, crime, unemployment and underemployment are a few critical issues exacerbated by gentrification. The push to increase the tax base and to revitalize our city has not translated into improved city services or quality of life enhancements for Ward 5.



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

An academic, scholarly background and a proactive commitment to Ward 5 (and the District) are what make me uniquely qualified. As a MBA, MHRM candidate soon to begin a PhD, I have the ability to grasp complex issues and apply critical-thinking and research skills. I articulate and impart information well and initiate innovative and energizing solutions. For example, last summer, I helped stop efforts to designate my Brookland neighborhood "historic." After laborious research and information gathering, I galvanized 500+ residents to attend an opposition meeting. Our presentation moved our ANC and Historic Preservation Office to vote overwhelmingly against "historic" Brookland.

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

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) is a political figure I greatly admire. Besides her clear refinement and grace, Congresswoman Waters repeatedly demonstrates bold, courageous and moral-based leadership for our country. Whether it is her efforts to expose and stop drug proliferation in our community or her resounding voice to end police brutality or her tireless role as promoter, mediator, and activist for youth empowerment, Congresswoman Waters consistently provides an intelligent, thoughtful and articulate voice in Congress, especially for the historically underserved and disenfranchised.

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

**a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was the** Holy Bible. I regularly read a lot of business and management books. However, the Bible is the one I enjoy reading the most (although I have not finished).

**b) My favorite television show/movie is** usually anything on the Turner Classic Movie channel.

**c) In my spare time I love to** sit and do nothing.



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**Also running (did not submit answers to questionnaire):**

**Joe Harris (Democrat)**