

DC Democratic Primary 2018 Voter Guide

> THINK JEWISHLY. VOTE LOCALLY.

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Ed Lazere **Jeremiah Lowery Brianne Nadeau** Kenyan McDuffie **Charles Allen**

Attorney General: Karl Racine Ballot Initiative 77: Yes **Democratic State Committee: Dump Trump - Dems 4 Action** Council At Large (November): Elissa Silverman

Our criteria for endorsement:

(Write-In / Por escrito)

Social & Economic Justice Agenda **Commitment to Racial Equity High Ethical Standards Electability**

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INTRODUCTION

The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund is a grassroots community organization working in DC and Montgomery County. We work in coalition with trusted partners to advance issue campaigns to end all forms of oppression and make real improvements in people's lives. We work with elected officials to craft policy and with our grassroots community to hold those officials accountable.

We created the JUFJ Campaign Fund to help smart, strategic, and progressive candidates cut through the noise and get elected — and to make it clear to our elected leaders that we expect them to fight for Black, brown, and white families and to invest in an economy that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few.

We used four core criteria to guide our decision process: the candidates had to closely align with our community's agenda for social and economic justice, demonstrate their commitment to racial equity, show high ethical standards, and have a real chance of winning.

For the June 2018 primary election, our organizational leaders extensively examined where leading candidates stand on a social justice agenda.

Our endorsement committee represents our membership, staff, board, and community partners. They reviewed detailed questionnaires, conducted group candidate interviews, and consulted with a diverse group of local progressive advocates, activists, and longtime JUFJ Campaign Fund partners and allies.

This voter guide seeks to help voters make a difference at the ballot box, and to put real progressive policy on the DC agenda.

Learn more about the JUFJ Campaign Fund and our endorsements at www.jufjcampaignfund.org

ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE



Rubie Coles



Seth Johnson



Gabe Kravitz



Sarah Novick



Daniel Solomon



Michelle Sternthal



Tac Tacelosky



Ericka Taylor



Hannah Weilbacher



Jacob Feinspan, Executive Director

Council Chair: Ed Lazere



edfordc.com

Ed Lazere's twenty years of leadership experience and policy expertise have already made huge positive change in the everyday lives of DC residents through his efforts on paid family and medical leave, TANF, and other safety net programs.

As Council Chair, Ed will prioritize affordable housing, quality education, and good jobs for all. Ed is committed to breaking down barriers that hold back struggling communities in DC, especially Black and brown people

especially Black and brown people faced with worsening inequity, and he has the policy chops and the experience working with DC government to follow through on that commitment.

As the longtime Director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, Ed has worked with almost every progressive organization in the District, and has provided expert testimony and policy advice on issues from fair taxation to affordable housing to food security. As a parent of two Black DCPS graduates, and as former head of the PTA, Ed knows how to address challenges in our schools, and he knows that more police don't make our communities safer. His advocacy on raising the minimum wage and on paid family and medical leave demonstrates his commitment to helping poor and working families, and he has been pointing out — for several years — that Black and brown residents often face the steepest challenges to economic prosperity.

Electing Ed is an amazing opportunity to transform DC into the progressive city that its residents want it to be.

About the incumbent: **Phil Mendelson** played a key leadership role in creating DC's landmark paid family and medical leave program, but he subsequently attempted to undermine it. He proclaimed a"moratorium" on pro-worker legislation, which was claimed as a precedent by Republican state senators in Maryland in their attempt to block sick leave legislation. We worked alongside Chairman Mendelson to increase DC's minimum wage, and we hope that in the remainder of his time in office, he prioritizes championing progressive policies to help his constituents over cautiously seeking consensus that ignores policy best practices.

At Large: Jeremiah Lowery



jeremiah2018.com

Jeremiah Lowery has made a career of organizing, serving, and fighting for marginalized people and communities in the District.

Jeremiah understands the urgent need to address the big challenges facing the District and is a proven progressive leader with deep community ties who will bring new passion, energy, and vision to the DC Council. As an organizer, he fights tirelessly for workers who face barriers to sharing in DC's economic growth.

He has partnered with JUFJ and other local labor justice organizations to successfully run campaigns to raise wages and expand paid sick days.

Jeremiah also stood side-by-side with JUFJ in designing and passing a progressive and inclusive paid family and medical leave program. As an appointee to DC's first Food Policy Council, he is fighting to make sure all families have affordable and convenient access to healthy food options.

Jeremiah is committed to advancing universal child care, 100% renewable energy, and tackling our affordable housing crisis head-on. His visionary thinking and ambitious policy proposals are what DC needs.

About the incumbent: Councilmember **Anita Bonds** has been a vocal defender of DC's seniors, but we believe that more must be done to address urgent needs, and that her goals are not ambitious enough. As Chair of the Housing Committee, Councilmember Bonds stalled crucial legislation to help renters in her commitee and championed a bill that undermined the rights of tenants in single-family homes. She also recently announced in a candidate forum that she wants to exclude many people from DC's paid family and medical leave program.

The third candidate in the race, **Marcus Goodwin**, did not make a persuasive case for why he would be a more effective advocate than Jeremiah.

Ward I: Brianne Nadeau



briannefordc.com

Brianne Nadeau has a strong record of supporting affordable housing, economic justice, and accountable government, with one of the highest scores on our recent Council voting record scorecard.

She is a key partner with progressive organizations in DC in advancing affordable housing, creating a paid family and medical leave program, and prioritizing services for struggling DC residents over tax cuts for millionaires and businesses.

Councilmember Nadeau was a vocal supporter of fair scheduling rules for part-time workers against opposition from many of her colleagues. She supported JUFJ's efforts to turn the former Hebrew Home for the Aged into truly affordable housing. Her first term on the Council has demonstrated her commitment to smart, effective policies that improve the lives of all Ward I residents.

About the challengers: Lori Parker supports many of the issues that we care about and has experience in DC government. Kent Boese has been an excellent ANC Commissioner and a champion of affordable housing at the Hebrew Home. Ultimately, neither of them made a persuasive case that they would be more effective advocates and representatives for those issues than the incumbent.

Sheika Reid did not complete our candidate questionnaire.

Ward 5: Kenyan McDuffie



kenyanmcduffie2018.com

Kenyan McDuffie is a champion of racial justice and criminal justice reform, and author of the groundbreaking NEAR Act.

This essential legislation seeks to address DC's serious problems with racially biased policing and racist police brutality by treating violence prevention and policing as matters of public health and investing in community engagement. Kenyan also played key roles in advancing juvenile justice reform, campaign finance reform, and the Fair

Elections legislation that will make running for office more accessible for candidates without corporate backers.

Councilmember McDuffie's support for tax cuts for DC's wealthiest residents and businesses is a key area of disagreement with JUFJ. We are pleased, however, that in this year's budget negotiations, he supported Councilmember Charles Allen's proposal to protect DC from the disastrous Republican tax bill, prioritizing DC's social services, education, and other programs over enriching the wealthiest few DC residents.

We look forward to working with Kenyan in his next term toward racial and economic justice for everyone in DC, especially the poor Black and brown families who often bear the brunt of systemic racism and disinvestment.

Councilmember McDuffie has no viable challenger in the primary election.

Ward 6: Charles Allen



charlesallen2018.com

Charles Allen has worked hard to bring affordable housing to Ward 6, which has created the most affordable units of any Ward over the past three years.

Charles championed the recently passed Fair Elections legislation, which will help more diverse and representative candidates to win office, by providing matching funds to candidates who rely on small donors instead of large corporate donations. He has also been a strong supporter of paid family and medical

leave, as well as other legislation to improve the lives of working families, white, Black, and brown.

Councilmember Allen's 2016 votes in favor of tax cuts for businesses and multimillionaires were a key area of disagreement with JUFJ, so we applaud his proposal, just passed in the 2019 budget, to decouple DC's estate tax from the federal estate tax in the wake of the Republican tax scam. This policy will protect revenue that is desperately needed for programs like affordable housing and paid family leave from disappearing into the wallets of the wealthiest.

We are eager to help Councilmember Allen expand his work for affordable housing and fair elections in his next term.

About the challenger: Lisa Hunter expresses like-minded values and commitment to our issues. We appreciate her progressive positions on Initiative 77 and the need for affordable housing. However, she did not make a persuasive case that she would be a stronger advocate and representative than the incumbent.

Attorney General: Karl Racine



karlracine.com

Karl Racine has used his office to protect vulnerable residents, especially people of color and those who are affected by poverty.

In a political moment when justice seems out of reach for many immigrants and Black and brown residents, Attorney General Racine has been a true champion for justice in DC. He stands up for DACA recipients, including filing lawsuits to protect them from the federal government's assault on their status.

As the first ever independent Attorney General of the District, Karl has prioritized major reforms to the juvenile justice system. The AG's diversion program has been essential in keeping thousands of young people out of prison, and instead directs them toward the social services and support they need.

Attorney General Racine's efforts on behalf of tenants led to the expulsion of notorious slumlord Sanford Capital from the District. And he has worked with community partners to ensure all workers receive the wages and benefits they earn, and don't lose money to dishonest employers who deny them their legal rights.

We hope to work with Karl in a second term to expand on these efforts, and to make sure that everyone in DC, white, Black, or brown, has access to real justice.

Attorney General Racine is running unopposed.

Mayor: No Endorsement

Mayor Muriel Bowser has led DC forward on some notable policies, and has also held the District back in other ways. As she has no viable challenger, we look forward to working with her to move DC forward at a faster pace over the next four years.

She supported increasing the minimum wage, and — eventually funded Fair Elections. However, she was a highly vocal opponent of the paid family and medical leave program, though in recent months her administration has begun a process to launch the program. While she played a critical role in closing the dilapidated DC General homeless shelter, her initial plan to do so gave massive concessions to developers who supported her campaign.

In a time when the District needs a visionary leader, Mayor Bowser has chosen to move cautiously. In a city whose voters are more than ready to be a beacon to the nation, advocates have had to struggle to pass progressive policies. We recognize the Mayor's achievements in increasing spending on affordable housing, we wish her sincere congratulations on her new baby, and we hope that we can work together to make sure every child in DC has the support they need to thrive.

Ward 3: No Endorsement

Councilmember Mary Cheh declined to return our questionnaire, and so we were not able to engage in an endorsement process with her. We endorsed Councilmember Cheh in 2014, and she has been an ally on affordable housing, fair scheduling, and supporting tipped workers. However, in recent months she was a leader in attempting to repeal and replace the paid family and medical leave program, and she supported major tax cuts for the wealthy.

Councilmember Cheh is running unopposed.

Ballot Initiative 77: **YES**

Ending the "tipped wage" is a key step to ensuring that everyone who works, whether they're white, Black, or brown, can earn a decent living and sustain their families. If you want people who work for tips to earn more and be harassed and exploited less, vote YES on 77.

Initiative 77 would gradually raise the tipped minimum wage, currently \$3.33/hour, to match the standard minimum wage, currently \$12.50/hour, by 2025. Technically employers are required to "top off" tipped staff when tips fall short, but there is no effective method of enforcement.

Initiative 77 was created by Restaurant Opportunities Center, which organizes restaurant workers, and which has stood for paid sick leave, fair scheduling, and paid family and medical leave. The No on 77 campaign is funded and driven by the wealthy local and national restaurant industry lobby. They've spent millions misleading and scaring voters, owners, and tipped workers, claiming that one fair and equal wage will make customers stop tipping and will force restaurants and bars to close.

But seven states, including California, already have one equal wage, and copious data shows their hospitality industries are thriving. **Servers in states with one fair wage have not lost their tips and in fact make more money.** The same lobbyists claimed the sky would fall and businesses would flee when DC banned smoking in restaurants, expanded sick leave to restaurant workers, and created paid family leave. Our restaurant industry is thriving and yet the lobbyists are back at it, using scare tactics and intimidation to mislead owners and workers alike.

Meanwhile, nearly 1/4 of tipped workers in DC are on Medicaid. 90% report being harassed on the job. 2/3 of tipped workers are women, and women of color regularly receive smaller tips than white male servers. Servers who rely on tips are less likely to report abuse from customers or managers. Initiative 77 won't fix harassment, but one fair wage helps tipped workers stand up for themselves with less threat of losing money they need.

Initiative 77 will also increase wages for nail salon employees, parking attendants, bellhops, etc. Service jobs are a growing part of our economy, and **we need to make sure that every job can be a good job.**

For more stories and data about tipped workers, visit jufj.org/onefairwage.

You do not need to be a registered Democrat to vote YES on 77.

DC Democratic State Committee: Dump Trump - Dems 4 Action

The Democtratic State Committee determines the priorities of the DC Democratic Party, from statehood to education to labor policy. Voters can vote for at-large candidates and national committee candidates, as well as the candidates in your Ward.

The **Dump Trump - Dems 4 Action** slate of candidates is running to turn the Democratic Party into a voice for justice, inclusivity, and progress. They are diverse in terms of age and race, and they include several community organizers with whom we have worked closely. With this leadership, DC's Democratic Party can be an institution that works for affordable housing and community policing, instead of the status quo.

Visit demsforaction.nationbuilder.com.

National Committee Nikki M.G. Lewis Markus Batchelor

At-Large Chioma Iwuoha Kishan Putta Sequnely Gray Charles Wilson Tiye Kinlow Phillip Pannell Heidi Kotzien John Capozzi Janeese Lewis Diallo Brooks Molly Ruland Earl Williams Sharece Crawford Ward I Bonnie Cain Tony Donaldson, Jr. Angelica Castanon Steve Lanning

Ward 2 Merry Rutrick John Fanning Marina Streznewski Delvonne Michael

Ward 3 Audrey Alvarado Zach Israel Ann Loikow Jesse Lovell Ward 4

Carla Ferris-Artiga Eric Atilano Renee Bowser Todd Brogan

Ward 5 Andra Wicks Gordon-Andrew Fletcher Jay Mills Walter DeLeon

Ward 6 Wendy Cronin Zach Weinstein Andria Thomas Franco Ciammachilli

Ward 8 Regina Pixley Stuart Anderson Troy Donte Prestwood

At Large: Elissa Silverman



elissa2018.com

Elissa Silverman is a fierce champion of economic and social justice.

Elissa is an author of DC's groundbreaking paid family and medical leave law, a loud voice on behalf of workers' rights, and a reliable leader on affordable housing.

Throughout her time on the Council, Elissa has worked tirelessly to support renters, seniors, and low-income DC residents, fighting for funding for unemployment

insurance, rental subsidies, and public transit. She has stood up against tax cuts and giveaways to the wealthiest people and businesses in the District, cuts that took funding away from these vital programs.

On our recent <u>DC Council scorecard</u>, Elissa stood out as the Councilmember who is doing the absolute most to move DC forward. Her partnership and moral leadership has been invaluable, and we look forward to working with her throughout her next term.

About the challenger: Dionne Reeder, a business owner who told the Washington Post that she is running because of her opposition to paid family and medical leave, did not return our questionnaire and declined to be interviewed.

Elissa Silverman will be on the November general election ballot, not the June primary election ballot. **Vote for Elissa on Tuesday, November 6.**

Vote early at any Early Voting Center, then join us to get out the vote for our endorsed candidates on Election Day!

Ward I: Columbia Heights Community Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 2: One Judiciary Square June 4 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Ward 3: Chevy Chase Community Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 4: Takoma Community Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 5: Turkey Thicket Recreation Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 6: Sherwood Recreation Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 6: King Greenleaf Recreation Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 7: Deanwood Community Center and Library June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

Ward 8: Malcolm X Opportunity Center June 8 - June 15, 8:30 am to 7:00pm

PRIMARY DAY IS TUESDAY, JUNE 19.

JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FUND

THINK JEWISHLY. VOTE LOCALLY.

Paid for by JUFJ Campaign Fund, 1100 H St, NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20005. Joe Sandler, Treasurer.

A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.

www.jufjcampaignfund.org