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# VOTER GUIDE

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**WARD 4 AND WARD 8  
SPECIAL ELECTION APRIL 28**

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# INTRODUCTION

**The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund mobilizes the Jewish communities of Greater Washington to advance campaigns for social justice and support progressive candidates for office.**

For the April 2015 special election, we undertook an extensive process that allowed our organization leaders to examine where the leading candidates in the Ward 4 and Ward 8 special election stand on a social justice agenda.

We convened an endorsement committee of seven representatives from our membership, board, and community partners. Rebecca Brink, Dyana Forester, Seth Johnson, Monica Kamen, Abby Levine, Daniel Solomon and Ericka Taylor reviewed detailed questionnaires, conducted lengthy candidate interviews, and consulted with a variety of local progressive advocacy partners and allies.

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 affordable housing, living wage jobs, and the issues that matter most. We used three core criteria to guide our decision process: the candidates had to closely align with our agenda for social and economic justice, show high ethical standards, and have a real chance of winning.

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

Learn more about the JUFJ Campaign Fund and our endorsements process at [www.jufjcampaignfund.org](http://www.jufjcampaignfund.org)

*Paid for by JUFJ Campaign Fund, 1633 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, DC 20009. Joseph Sandler, Treasurer. A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.*

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## Ward 8: Trayon White



[trayonforward8.com](http://trayonforward8.com)

Trayon White has dedicated his life to serving and fighting for his community. For more than a decade, Trayon has been organizing in Ward 8 to bring opportunities for a better future to all, and particularly for those most struggling to make ends meet. His dogged determination and grassroots support not only helped him beat four better-funded competitors in a special election for school board in 2011, and led him to organize DCPS parents to give his community a more powerful voice in education policy.

Trayon's campaign has been building momentum in recent weeks. After Trayon's strong showing at the Ward 8 straw poll, two other candidates, Stuart Anderson and Jauhar Abraham, dropped out to endorse Trayon. Stuart Anderson and Jauhar Abraham - who have dedicated their lives to working with people returning from prison and preventing violence - believe Trayon is the candidate with the best chance of representing their issues on the council.

The endorsement committee interviewed a number of other strong Ward 8 candidates for the Ward 8 Council seat from among the many contenders. LaRuby May has significant experience in working in childcare, youth development, and community development programs, and has built a powerful campaign. Eugene Kinlow led efforts to keep a prison out of Ward 8 and played a key role in DC Voting Rights efforts. Sheila Bunn knows how to get things done in government thanks to years of work as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Gray. Marion Christopher Barry brings his experience as a lifelong Ward 8 resident and as a job creator through his construction company. Each of these contenders bring their own unique set of experiences and expertise to the contest and each is sincere in their desire to represent, advocate for, and bring resources to the Ward and communities east of the river.

Out of this strong field, and 11 total candidates vying to represent Ward 8, Trayon stood out as a seasoned organizer with a track record of making progress on the issues the JUFJ Campaign Fund fights for in DC every day. We know that Trayon will work every day to help young men and women find good jobs, protect public housing residents from being pushed out, and help people returning from prison reintegrate into the community. The JUFJ Campaign Fund is proud to endorse Trayon White for Ward 8 Councilmember and we look forward to working with him in the community and in the Wilson Building.

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## Ward 4: No Endorsement

The Ward 4 race has a plethora of candidates with strong records of community service. With 11 candidates in the race it is challenging for voters to get clear perspective on the contenders' experience and priorities. Our endorsement team requested questionnaires from all the candidates. After careful consideration, the endorsement committee concluded that no single candidate met all of our criteria for endorsement.

This guide presents our analysis of the records and questionnaire responses of the leading candidates, as determined by fundraising numbers reported publically in the Washington City Paper and Washington Post. A fourth leading candidate, Dwayne Toliver, did not return our questionnaire. For more on all the candidates, see the volunteer-run unaffiliated website [ward4candidatesinfo.com](http://ward4candidatesinfo.com).



[brandontodd4ward4.com](http://brandontodd4ward4.com)

**BRANDON TODD** is the frontrunner in the race, having made full use of the relationships he developed as Muriel Bowser's Constituent Services Director, Finance Director, and as Chair of the Ward 4 Democrats. He is smart, hardworking, and ambitious, though he does not have much of track record on our issues. Todd expressed support for two JUFJ Campaign Fund priorities:

creating a Paid Family Leave program, and transforming part-time jobs into full-time employment. However, he opposes public financing of elections and did not indicate support for raising the tipped minimum wage, expanding access to affordable housing subsidies for most residents, or addressing police reform efforts led by DCFerguson.



[renee4ward4.com](http://renee4ward4.com)

**RENÉE BOWSER**, a longtime activist and labor lawyer, is a third-time candidate and can claim the mantle of the most progressive candidate in the race. She knows local issues inside and out, and has been active with local organizations like Empower DC to address affordable housing. Bowser supports doubling funding for the Affordable Housing Production Trust

Fund, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, creating a Paid Family Leave program, legislation to make part-time hours more predictable and helping part-time jobs become full-time work. She also strongly supports efforts to address racialized policing and have greater community accountability over police misconduct.



[andrews4dc.com](http://andrews4dc.com)

**LEON ANDREWS** is a newcomer to DC politics who brings nearly a decade of experience working with mayors and other municipal leaders around the country to address their most pressing challenges. Andrews holds many of the same policy posi-

tions as Renée Bowser. Although he is newer to the local political scene and still learning some of the issues, the strength of his knowledge of what other communities have done to address some of the same challenges facing DC could be a real asset on the council.