

Metropolitan Washington Council

2016 DC Election Candidate Questionnaire

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, which represents 180 local unions in all industry sectors, including the public and federal sectors, has priorities which include

- creating family sustaining jobs for all
- investing in education, infrastructure, healthcare and transportation
- improving the lives of workers through education, quality job training, career advancement and livable wages with good benefits
- ensuring fair, progressive tax policies
- making high-quality, affordable healthcare available to everyone
- holding corporations and government more accountable to ensure that the public good is served by taxpayer dollars
- ensuring that a worker's universal right to organize and to bargain collectively for wages, hours and conditions of work are maintained and enforced

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Candidate Full Name: LaRuby May

Office Seeking: DC Council

Ward or At-Large: Ward 8

Office:

Democrat

Republican

Statehood/Green

Other (please specify)

Campaign Address: 3119 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE

Candidate Contact Information: Ty'on Jones (Campaign Manager) 202-971-6966

Treasurer Name and Address:

Name Monica Ray

Street Address 3119 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE

City Washington

State District of Columbia

Zip Code 20020

Accepts PAC Contributions Yes No

Restrictions on PAC Contribution NONE

Previous Elected/Appointed Office:

DC Council, Ward 8

Terms of Previous Office:

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May 2015 - December 2016

Have you ever received the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO endorsement?

Yes No

When:

Special Election, 2015

Have you ever assisted a Labor organization to achieve any of its goals?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Please explain why you seek labor's endorsement?

Historically, labor unions have played a key role in the preservation of employment by maintaining a secure pathway to the middle class for working class communities. As your Ward 8 Councilwoman one of my top priorities has been preserving and creating job opportunities that transform into long-lasting careers for Ward 8 residents.

Job security is incredibly important to families east of the river and labor unions ensure blue collar workers receive the living wages they deserve. As a former education provider and job creator in Ward 8, I recognized the significant role labor unions played in providing career readiness, placement and advancement opportunities in our community. Since elected, I have worked with labor unions and their leadership to ensure that Ward 8 residents have access to career readiness programs that place them in stable jobs that pay a living wage.

Overall, I believe that my legislative and programmatic priorities closely align with those within the labor movement. As your Ward 8 Councilwoman I look forward to continuing to work with AFL-CIO to advance the priorities

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and projects that the most matter to us all.

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Washington National and Dulles airports are an important source of employment for people in our communities. But instead of helping our communities move ahead, the low wages and poor conditions for food and retail workers at these airports are keeping workers behind. At Dulles, the estimated average wage for retail and food service workers is just \$9.74 per hour yet for every hour worked by a concessions employee at the airport, the government makes an estimated \$14. Major airports across the country have taken great strides in giving retail and food service workers a better deal by working with UNITE HERE. We believe that airport concessions workers in our nation's capital deserve the same. D.C. appoints several members to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority which governs these airports.

1)		What would you do to ensure that National and Dulles airport food and retail workers are paid fair wages and benefits?
		Answer A
		All workers, no matter the industry, are entitled to a fair wage for a day's worth of work. With the rising cost of living in the metropolitan DC area, workers with stagnant wages continue to struggle to make their ends meet. Many airport workers are forced to work multiple jobs just to keep food on their table and a roof over their heads. This is unacceptable and I am happy to work with union leaders, UNITE HERE and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to find a solution to address the lack of equity in pay for food and retail workers at our area's airports. It is important for business leaders to remain committed to providing their workforce with quality of life inside and outside of work. Equitable wages play a key role in that commitment. This is why we must work together to erase the unfair gap in pay food and retail workers are subjected to all over the metropolitan area.
		Answer B
		Click here to enter text.

Many studies have shown that good patient outcomes and short hospital stays require adequate numbers of registered professional nurses at the bedside. When there are fewer RN's to care for more and increasingly ill patients, complications multiply and expensive hospital stays are increased.

2)		Do you support the Safe Working Conditions for Healthcare Workers Amendment Act of 2015, also known as the Patient Protection Act, introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson
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		<p>and four other members of the District Council (and passed 4-1 by the Committee on Business, Regulatory and Consumer Affairs) that would impose mandatory, minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in DC hospitals?</p>
		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

More and more companies are springing up offering visitors to the City options other than registered businesses such as hotels and bed and breakfast inns, such as stays in people's homes and apartments in residential neighborhoods. This causes noise, parking problems, and loss of tax revenue.

3)		<p>Do you support stronger enforcement of our zoning laws, which are designed to protect our neighborhoods and affordable housing from the unchecked growth of short-term rentals?</p>
		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Many kinds of festivals, concerts, promotions occur on city property or on property controlled by the City and some of these vendors exploit the workforce used to operate

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these events, paying lowest wages tolerated, providing no health care, offering no job training to enhance the skill set, and treating these workers as “1099 independent contractors”, thereby avoiding Social Security and payroll taxes. This situation also disadvantages the “brick and mortar” permanent facilities providing arts and entertainment in our city.

4)		<p>Would you be willing to support DC legislation that would require any and all presenters, promoters, vendors, “Events DC”, et al doing any form of for-profit theatrical presentation, show or concert on City property or on property controlled by the City to pay all of their employees an area-standard wage, provide health care coverage and access to job training in the Technical Entertainment Industry?</p>
		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 requires the payment of local prevailing wages for the construction of DC government public works projects, such as public schools, fire and police stations, and roads and bridges. Relying on a narrow definition of public works that is currently the subject of a court challenge, the District requires some government-assisted development projects to pay construction workers the local Davis Bacon wages, but not others. For example, development projects receiving Tax Increment Financing from the District are required to pay their construction workers local prevailing wages, but projects receiving property and other types of tax abatements, using the District’s

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industrial revenue bond program, or leasing or purchasing District-owned land are not required to pay local prevailing wages.

5)		As a DC Councilmember, will you introduce and support legislation to require the payment of Davis Bacon wages by construction contractors and subcontractors working on ALL projects receiving property and other tax abatements, involving the sale or lease of District-owned land, or participating in the revenue bond program?
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

6)		What 2-3 things would you do to close the large and growing achievement gaps in our public schools? What would you do to ensure that all students and their schools have a healthy physical environment, quality teachers, instructional supplies and other resources they need to be successful?
		Introduce legislation to require smaller classrooms
		Introduce legislation that brings greater accountability on at-risk funding
		Introduce legislation that brings greater accountability for the turn-over rate of administrators and teachers in our schools. Introduce legislation that would allow funding to follow the student so that our neighborhood DCPS schools are not left to serve more children with less money, while DCPCS have more money to serve less students.

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7)		The collective bargaining agreement covering DC teachers expired 3 years ago. The effect of this is to deny collective bargaining rights to those who democratically voted to join a union. What is the role of the City Council in ensuring that contract negotiations are not intentionally stalled by labor or by management? How would you ensure that the voice of workers is heard and encourage a broader, productive, and a more healthy labor/management relationship?
		Answer A
		The role of the DC Council is as the legislative body of the government. I believe that the DC Council can provide guidance and support and encouragement to make sure that contract negotiations are done in good faith and timely. I am willing to use the authority that the DC Council has to make sure that labor/management agreements are executed in a manner that lends towards healthy relationships.
		Answer B
		Click here to enter text.

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8A)	MetroAccess is a share-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service in the region for the most vulnerable transit passengers (the elderly and those with disabilities that can't take traditional transit). Do you support the allocation of additional funding to paratransit that will allow the companies to provide pay and benefits equivalent to their WMATA bus operator counterparts?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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8B)	<p>Additionally, would you support the crafting of legislation that would set standards that would ensure that paratransit operators are not required to accept money outside of their vans and set schedules that would ensure that riders do not have to be transported for hours before they are dropped off?</p>
	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

9)	<p>In 2014, at least 170 Metrobus operators reported being assaulted and in 2015, there were even more incidents, including a station manager being stabbed and a bus operator who was caught in gun crossfire. Would you be willing to work with labor to craft legislation that would ensure the consistent enforcement of the law to protect transit operators who are assaulted on the job and protect them from excessive discipline when they are assaulted?</p>
	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Congress extended the Abolishment Act (D.C. Code §§ 1-624.08 et seq.), effectively allowing the DC government to define the procedures governing any RIF initiated by an agency head, by limiting the procedures to which an aggrieved employee is entitled, and rendering those procedures nonnegotiable. Although this was a misguided effort to help

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DC government reduce costs, agency heads exploited this Act, often using it as a means to rid their agencies of unpopular employees. The use of such improperly targeted RIF's is an abuse of authority and does not serve the interests of the District. DC workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement have been unfairly deprived of any meaningful opportunity to assert the rights that they were intended to have under the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act.

10)		Will you support legislation to repeal provisions of the Abolishment Act that override collective bargaining agreements?
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

11)		Should DC government be able to override collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding RIFs?
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

In October 2015, the DC City Council passed emergency legislation creating a pilot program to address the "crisis" in the management of Emergency Medical Services. The emergency legislation created a two-tiered strategy of EMS calls: Basic Firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) would respond to all EMS calls. Patients with low priority medical conditions would be required to wait for a private ambulance to transport them to a hospital. If a private ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes, the patients would then be required to wait for a fully staffed EMS medic unit to arrive.

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The EMS stakeholders consists of many unique and well-trained committed individuals who have a vested interest in the well-being of the District of Columbia residents who depend on emergency services. They are committed to delivering quality care, providing safe transport, and ensuring that DC residents receive continuous care before and during their transport to the appropriate facility.

12)		In your opinion, are important government services such as emergency medical transport better served by strengthening DC workers who provide those services or by privatization?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep work in house
		<input type="checkbox"/> Privatize

13)		Would you be willing to introduce or support legislation that would mandate annual safety testing by an approved and recognized entity of all Fire and EMS equipment and apparatus?
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

The Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1974 (CMPA) establishes the right or DC government employees to form unions if they so desire, and sets out how representation elections will be held, how collective bargaining will be conducted, and how disputes will be resolved.

14)		Some ES employees (paraprofessionals) work only 10 months out of 12. Would you support legislation to allow these workers to receive unemployment services during the
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	summer months when they are deemed as officially being laid off employees?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

15)	Will you vote to uphold the provisions of the CMPA if they are challenged in any way which reduces workers' rights?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

16)	If elected, what would you publicly do to ensure guaranteed healthcare for all is a right and not a privilege?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

17)	In a City where the cost of living is incredibly high, do you support raising the minimum wage in the District of Columbia to \$15 an hour?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

18)	Rent control has helped maintain affordable housing in DC. Do you support making rent control permanent in our City?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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Although the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively for their wages, hours and working conditions is a right recognized in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and although federal labor law protects this right, employers routinely fire, harass, demote and otherwise punish workers who try to form a union. In order to help protect a workers' right to unionize, would you be willing to:

19)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urge employers to respect their employees' right to form a union by remaining neutral during a union organizing campaign?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write a letter to urge an employer to re-hire a worker fired because he/she supported the union during an organizing drive?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urge the public to utilize union produced products (the labor federation can provide lists)?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walk a picket line in support of a labor union?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)

20) For the measures above that you have agreed to support, would you be willing to:

- Co-sponsor legislation
- Work with our lobbyists to pass the bill
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation

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- Speak at public events in support of legislation
- Write a letter in support of legislation
- Other (please specify)

21)	There are companies with bad labor relations records (i.e. not paying their employees prevailing wages, retaliating against employees for organizing activities, or failing to pay fair wages etc.) that still receive DC government contracts. Will you support policies barring these companies from receiving government contracts or any government assistance?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

22)	Do you support allowing teachers who teach in DC public charter schools to join a union if they so choose so they can have the same rights to bargain for wages, benefits, and working conditions as other public, federal and private sector workers do?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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23)	<p>There are independent DC government agencies such as the Public Service Commission, The Office of the Tenant Advocate, Office of the People's Counsel, the Public Employee Relations Board, and University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees, and others that must function without political interference. The Mayor appoints the heads of these independent agencies and members of these Boards with the confirmation of the City Council. Boards can be stymied and stopped if timely replacements of those whose terms expire are not made by the Mayor; leaving the board without a quorum means no work can be done by the commission's. Will you support legislation that will allow the heads of these independent agencies and members of these independent boards to continue to serve past their terms until they are replaced by someone who is appointed and qualified?</p>
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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24)	Justice delayed is justice denied. Likewise pay and benefit improvements denied is not justice. Once a collective bargaining contract has been reached between a union representing public employees and the City, do you pledge to fully fund those contracts and require the Mayor to send the contract to the City Council for approval within 30 days after the contract has been ratified by the union members?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

25)	Freedom of speech and the right to protest are fundamental American rights honored above all others. Will you oppose any attempt to limit these freedoms, especially by workers who must protest to protect their livelihoods and their rights?
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

A study released in June 2015 found that the majority of people who work in retail and

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food service in the District receive their work schedule less than one week in advance and are scheduled for fewer hours than they would like to work.

26)		Do you support bill B21-512, the "Hours and Scheduling Stability Act of 2015" – introduced and sponsored by 8 Council members -- that would ensure chain retail and food establishments offer available work hours to qualified current employees and post employee schedules three weeks in advance?
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

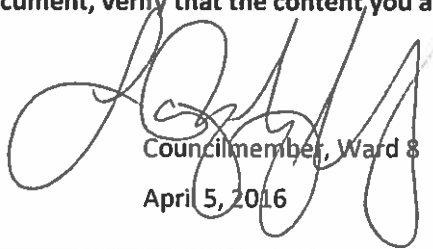
The role of the central labor council is to organize in the community to promote social justice for all working People.

27 A)		What do you believe are the 3 most important issues facing working people in the District, and how will you make an impact on those issues if elected to this office? Please include both short-term and long-term specifics.
		Short Term Answer 1. Living Wage 2. Housing Costs 3. Employment stability
		The most effective way for me to have impact on the issues facing Ward 8 residents in through the introduction and enactment of transformative laws.

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Before signing this document, verify that the content you are signing is correct.

Candidate Signature



Candidate Title

Councilmember, Ward 8

Date

April 5, 2016

27 B)	Long Term Answer
	Housing Employment Displacement