



**Metropolitan Washington Council
AFL-CIO**

**2018 District of Columbia
Committee on Political Education
PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Overview:

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, is comprised of 185 local unions representing working people in all public industry sectors. The Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO's priorities are outlined below:

- 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; and
- ensuring that a worker's universal right to organize and to bargain collectively for
- wages, hours and conditions of work are maintained and enforced.

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO
2018 CANDIDATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name: Karl A. Racine

Address: P.O. BOX 6119

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Phone: (240) 437-4712 Email: john@karlracine.com

Candidate for: District of Columbia Attorney General

Campaign Committee Name and Address: Karl Racine 2018, P.O. Box 6119, Washington DC
20044

Campaign Website: www.karlracine.com

Campaign Manager: John Carlos Green

Campaign Treasurer: Alethia Nancoo

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? Yes

Previously elected / appointed office:

Office: District of Columbia Attorney General Term: 2015 - 2019

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? Yes When? 2014

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Washington Council,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this questionnaire. I ask for your strongest consideration in this process because your endorsement is important to me, and because I stand with members of the MWC and working people across the District.

I know that the cost of living in the District is rising, and workers and their families are having a harder time staying afloat here. I want to make sure the District's growing prosperity benefits all its residents, and that people of all income levels can continue to call the District home.

In the three years since I took office as the District's first elected Attorney General, I have worked to make the District safer and more fair for everyone, and brought the power of the government to bear

on behalf of some of our most vulnerable residents—from immigrants who were being taken advantage of by scammers, to borrowers struggling with debt, to tenants forced to live in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. I have prioritized fighting for tenants and preserving affordable housing, reforming our juvenile justice system to fight racial disparities and help put our kids on the path to success, and protecting workers and consumers from abuse and exploitation.

One thing you may not know about me is that I am a Co-Chair of the Democratic Attorneys General Association. As a leader in DAGA, we have made labor unions key partners to our organization. DAGA is a tested supporter and champion of all our public sector unions, and Democratic AGs will play an even larger role after the Janus decision as the public sector unions have requested.

I stand with you on critical issues, and hope that your members will engage even more deeply with the Office of the Attorney General moving forward. I would be excited to have us get together and begin a process of sharing with you what our office does every day, and we would appreciate hearing more about what the union is seeing, and how we can better serve working people in the District of Columbia. By sitting together, I believe that we can learn how to best work together for the benefit of all.

SIGNATURE: Karl Racine

DATE: 5/9/18

**Please return your signed questionnaire by Wednesday, May 9, 2018 to the below address:
Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Attn.: David Dzidzienyo
815 16th St NW, Washington, DC, 20006
Submissions can also be e-mail to ddzidzienyo@dclabor.org**

2018 Candidate Questionnaire

A. Workplace Rights: (Please answer by checking the box)

There are certain basic workplace rights that the unions and members of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO believe are fundamental and absolutely essential. Collective bargaining elections and representation are permitted for private sector employees, whereas for public sector employees in Maryland, legislation is required in order to have those same rights. Over the past decade, these rights have been given to many states, higher education and K-12 public school education employees and some county employees. However, thousands of public sector employees are still denied these rights.

1. Would you support comprehensive collective bargaining legislation that would provide collective bargaining rights (including exclusivity, binding arbitration and an independent labor board) for all public employees-local, county, school boards and state?

Support

Oppose

Not sure

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

2. The right of workers to organize and have union representation

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

3. The right to freely exercise workplace rights free from harassment, intimidation and/or delays

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

4. The right to bargain collectively with a legal obligation on both sides to negotiate in good faith

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

5. The right to resolve differences in a fair, impartial and timely manner, including binding arbitration

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

The National Labor Relations Act grants private sector workers the right to organize themselves and be represented by a union in collective bargaining negotiations. From time to time, opponents of collective bargaining propose legislation to curtail workers' bargaining strength and effectiveness. Under the innocuous sounding name of "Right-to-Work," this legislation purports to protect the rights of workers and improve the state's economic development climate. But the net result in Right-to Work states is that workers earn less, have fewer health care benefits and have higher job fatality rates. Right to Work laws prohibit workers from negotiating a "union shop" or "union security" clause in their contracts. Such a clause obligates those in the bargaining unit to pay their fair share of the collective bargaining representation costs. By wiping out that protection, Right to Work actually weakens the rights of working people.

6. Would you support Right to Work in DC?

Yes **No** **Not sure**

Opponents of the labor movement have tried in recent years to stifle labor's political and legislative voice through a friendly sounding proposal called "paycheck protection." It proposes to give rank and file members more control over how their dues money is spent. It does so by requiring unions to spend an incalculable amount of time and money jumping through bureaucratic hoops. The net effect is that it would make it virtually impossible for unions to represent their members in the political and legislative arenas.

7. What is your position on the so-called paycheck protection idea?

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

When workers choose an exclusive collective bargaining representative, that union is legally obligated to represent every worker in the unit. Even when some people choose to be non-members, the union must represent them fully and fairly. In other words, those who pay dues are obligated to subsidize those who don't.

8. In your opinion, should a union be permitted to collect a service fee from non-members for the cost of union representation as long as there are protections for those who object on religious grounds?

Yes

No

not sure

9. Please provide us with at least two examples of what you have done legislatively to support workers' rights?

As Attorney General, I am committed to enforcing all of the District's wage and hour laws. In fact, I have prioritized fighting wage theft. After my election in 2014, I requested and was granted new powers to independently investigate and prosecute wage theft cases and created a Housing and Community Justice Section staffed with dedicated lawyers and investigators who work on wage theft cases. We have brought legal action against employers in a wide variety of industries—from health care to construction.

I am also committed to fighting for tipped workers and ensuring they receive all the tips they earn. In February, I joined a coalition of 17 state attorneys general to file public comment opposing Trump Administration effort to scrap rules guaranteeing that workers can keep all the tips they earn. I will continue to speak out and take action around this issue.

Additionally, I'd like to note that I have been a strong supporter of organized labor and living wages for all DC workers. In 2016, my office intervened in a lawsuit that sought to strike the question of whether DC should move to a \$15 per hour minimum wage off the ballot. We persuaded the Court to reverse its initial decision to strike the initiative, and therefore the question was permitted to go to the voters. Shortly after that decision, the Council moved forward with this legislation and the \$15 per hour minimum wage is now the law.

B: Workforce Violence:

1. What is your position on work place violence in the Hospital and Health care facilities?

No one should be subjected to violence in the workplace—or anywhere else. Violence prevention is one of my top priorities as Attorney General, and I am

advocating for policies that would help to ensure the safety of District residents in their homes, schools, workplaces, and places of worship.

2. How do you see yourself as an elected leader championing this issue for workers?

I am already advocating for a comprehensive approach to interrupting and preventing violence in the District, which, if implemented, could also prevent violence in hospital and health care facilities. I am also committed to enforcing all District laws on the books, especially those that protect workers.

C: Health Care: (Please answer by checking the box)

1. Nurses and other health care workers are often required to perform manual lifting of patients, without support offered by additional personnel, equipment, or training. As a result, registered nurses experience high rates of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries from lifting patients. Such injuries can have long-term detrimental effects on workers' ability to perform daily tasks, leaving them with chronic debilitating pain and often forcing them to leave the workforce. Indeed, about 12 percent of the nursing workforce leaves the bedside each year due to back injuries.

Do you support legislation that would require every healthcare employer to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based safe patient handling program that includes the use of lift teams, patient handling equipment, and proper training for healthcare workers?

Yes, I would support evidence-based policies that protect the health and safety of healthcare workers and their patients.

2. Health disparities, including those resulting in deaths, in the District of Columbia between black and white residents and between those in different wards are severe. Do you believe these disparities are a serious problem?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

If so, what policies are you proposing to eliminate these disparities?

While this falls outside of my area of expertise as Attorney General, I believe it is a serious problem and will use my "bully pulpit" to speak out about it. I have taken legal action to protect the Affordable Care Act from Trump Administration attacks to preserve access to health care for people of all income levels. Additionally, I am advocating for a public health approach to preventing violence in the District. This

approach would include wrap-around services—including health and mental health services—for young people in their neighborhoods, and I believe it would improve outcomes for young people in the District, especially young people of color.

Will you highlight these problems in your election campaign?

Yes **No** **other (explain below)**

3. Currently 28 million Americans, including at least 26,000 people in the District of Columbia, have no health insurance. Although the District government moved to expand Medicaid to cover an additional 35,000 people and has created an insurance exchange pursuant to the federal Affordable Care Act, it is the case now and will continue to be true that many people with health insurance cannot afford to use it due to high premiums, high deductibles and high co-pays. Nurses are concerned about the impact on access to health services resulting from limited networks of providers, and high out-of-pocket costs. Health insurance companies have reported record stock price increases, and hospitals anticipate increased revenues as well.

Furthermore, the subsidies promised under the Affordable Care Act may not be available because of federal budget constraints, and in any case will be insufficient for many Americans with low and moderate incomes. And the DC government contracts with private insurance companies to administer the District’s Medicaid program, while some states administer their Medicaid insurance program in-house at approximately half the cost.

4. Will you support a “patient bill of rights” to ensure health care access and limit out-of-pocket costs for receiving care outside of insurance company-established networks?

Yes **No** **Other (explain below)**

As Attorney General, I’m committed to enforcing all the laws on the books in the District. This would include a “patient bill of rights” if it becomes law.

5. Do you support prohibiting “balance billing” of patients by healthcare providers who seek reimbursement beyond what insurers pay?

Yes **No** **Other (explain below)**

As Attorney General, I’m committed to enforcing all the laws on the books in the District. While health care billing is outside of my area of expertise, I am happy to review any thoughtful legislation on this subject and look forward to hearing your

thoughts on the subject.

6. Do you support “in-sourcing” DC’s Medicaid program so that private insurance corporations aren’t allowed to profit off this vital public program?

Yes No Other (explain below)

I support responsible stewardship of public programs, and believe every effort should be made to safeguard taxpayer dollars and ensure services are delivered efficiently and effectively. Again, I’d be happy to review legislation on this topic and would be interested in hearing your thoughts.

7. Are you in favor of a publicly administered, state-based, single-payer universal health care system and, if so, what steps are you prepared to take to make it a reality in the District of Columbia?

Yes No Other (explain below)

No one should be denied access to quality health care. As Attorney General, I will provide legal advice and defend the will of the voters if they decide that a single-payer or public option is the best way to achieve health care access for all. I have already demonstrated my ability to defend District policies and programs from attacks by the Trump administration and Congress, and will continue to do so with regard to health care or any other issue.

D: Education:

1. What steps will you take to promote public unionism in DC if, as is expected, the Supreme Court will rule against unions in *Janus vs. AFSCME*?

I unequivocally support the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. As Attorney General, I note that non-lawyer professions and lawyers at the Office of Attorney General are organized; I support organized Labor. During my tenure I have made collaboration with Unions a priority and believe that all agencies of the District of Columbia should do the same. Moreover, I established, for the first time, a Labor Advisory Council made of organized Labor which regularly meets with me and the Office of the Attorney General. No matter what happens in the *Janus* case, I will support the work of Unions and remained engaged with the Labor community.

2. Do you believe that the students of Washington, DC would be better served if the District ended Mayoral control of schools and educational policies were once again the purview of an elected School Board?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

3. Do you believe the Washington Teachers' Union and DCPS should have the right to collectively bargain on teacher evaluation standards and procedures? If so, what steps will you take to achieve this goal?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

While not an expert, it is my personal view that appropriate evaluations of students and teacher performance is necessary but should follow evidence-based best practices in order to ensure that the objectives of testing are met and that evaluations are delivered in a transparent and fair manner. It is my firm belief that teachers and administrators should be involved in determining the appropriateness of certain testing and evaluation processes, and that WTU and DCPS should be at the table.

4. DCPS has one of the highest teacher turn-over rates in the nation. What would you do to address this problem?

I don't want to see good teachers leave our schools. I also recognize that teachers work hard, get blamed for things out of their control, and in many cases, feel like they are not respected. That leads to churn. The first thing that I can do – continue to do – is let our teachers know that I respect them and trust them. I am interested in hearing from teachers and would like to learn more about how I can best advocate more for the men and women who hold our communities together and do their best to take care of our children.

5. How are you going to help guarantee transparency in the DCPS budgeting process to make sure that funds earmarked for Title I programs and at-risk programs are used as intended?

As the Attorney General, I have consistently argued in favor of government transparency including the budget process. To the extent that necessary funds are not appropriated consistent with law, the Office of Attorney General stands ready to enforce legal requirements - period. Additionally, I have very good relationships with Council members, and together, we can force more sunlight into the budget process.

6. The achievement gap in DC between low income students and their more affluent peers is 38 times the national average.

- What do you believe are the causes of the achievement gap?
- What will you do to address this problem?

The achievement gap reflects long-standing poverty and racial disparities in our community. These factors have been exacerbated in the last decade in particular by rising housing prices, a drop in affordable housing, and a rising cost of living. While the District tries to cope with these long-term problems, which are significant factors in the achievement gap, these new dynamics push working class and middle-class families over the edge – or just straight out of the District. My experience as Attorney General is that an unacceptable number of DC children that live below the poverty line suffer from undiagnosed and untreated trauma, further complicating solutions.

No one can isolate the education system and treat it away from the District as a whole. In order to close the achievement gap, we have to look beyond the education system and address broad family and community issues, not just the narrow issue of student performance. I am a strong supporter of trauma-informed and evidenced-based assessments (psychological, educational, and family) practices that have been proven to narrow/eliminate achievement gaps. I believe that we need to fund and implement trauma-informed programs and provide students with the assistance they need in order to heal from the effects of trauma and succeed.

As Attorney General, I am also very concerned about low school attendance and chronic absenteeism in our schools. Children need to be in school in order to learn. My office is working to ensure that young people and families are given access to the services they need to enable them to attend school, and we strive to use prosecution as a last resort in truancy cases. We frequently direct truant students to a diversion program through which they may receive therapy, substance abuse treatment, mentoring, or other types of individualized help. We have also created a truancy mediation program for parents in certain types of cases and launched a pilot program called “I Belong Here” at Sousa Middle School. “I Belong Here” aims to instill a sense of belonging in students and expose them to the possibilities created by education. However, there is significant work to be done on attendance issues across the board.

7. The DCMR Title 5 states that principals and assistant principals serve one year without tenure in the position. Retention and reappointment shall be at the discretion of the Chancellor. Principals and Assistant Principals have no due process rights resulting in a high turnover of school administrators. How would you propose building continuity of leadership in the face of this situation?

I believe that we need to support school leaders, especially those who work in some of our most challenging schools. I am interested in hearing from school leaders about how best to support them.

E: Accountability/Economic Development: (Please answer by checking the box)

Short-term rental companies like, Airbnb, have grown exponentially in the last few years. In order to protect our neighborhoods and communities from commercial operators who convert valuable housing into de facto hotels, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie introduced the *Short-term Rental Regulation and Affordable Housing Protection Act of 2017*. This bill will 1) limit short-term rentals to primary residences, 2) remove the incentive to operate commercially by putting a cap on the amount of days a host can rent their home while not present, and 3) hold hosting platforms accountable.

1. Will you vote in support of this bill?

Yes

No

While I do not have a vote as Attorney General, I will support reasonable restrictions on commercial operators of short-term rentals. I understand that the affordable housing crisis is one of the most pressing problems facing the District right now, and I have prioritized protecting tenants and preserving existing affordable housing. In fact, I have already brought enforcement actions against companies that unlawfully operated rent-controlled apartments as hotel rooms, and I plan on continuing to bring this type of action.

2. Late last year, a Council committee held a hearing on noise complaints. It was evident from this hearing that the vast majority of the complaints should be addressed through better enforcement of the existing Noise Control Act. Unfortunately, some have proposed solving their noise concerns with draconian legislation that would limit the exercise of free speech in the District. Do you promise to defend the Noise Control Act, which provides critical protections for residents and visitors seeking to exercise their free speech rights in the District of Columbia?

Yes

No

3. 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?

Yes

No

While this is outside of my area of expertise, I am happy to review legislation on this subject and look forward to hearing your thoughts on the subject.

4. 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 DC government reduce costs, agency heads exploited this Act, often using it as a means to rid their agencies of unpopular employees.
5. 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.

Will you support legislation to repeal provisions of the Abolishment Act that override collective bargaining agreements?

Yes No

I am happy to review any legislation that is aimed at increasing fairness and due process for District workers.

6. Should DC government be able to override collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding RIFs?

Yes No

I support District workers, and believe that they must be treated fairly and have access to due process. The Office of Attorney General will enforce the law on the books, but we are sensitive to questions about equity – or the implication of inequity in the system. I am open to meeting with you to further discuss this issue.

The Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1974 (CMPA) establishes the right of 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.

7. 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 summer months when they are deemed as officially being laid off employees?

Yes No

N/A

8. Will you vote to uphold the provisions of the CMPA if they are challenged in any way which reduces workers' rights?

Yes

No

N/A

Noncompliance with wage and worker protection laws persists at a high level around the country. A 2008 survey found that 68% of people working low-wage jobs in large cities experience wage theft every week, losing about 15% of their earnings. When our laws regarding the minimum wage, overtime, wage theft, and paid sick leave are violated, workers and their families face real and dire consequences. They suffer increased poverty rates and are more likely to rely on public assistance, straining safety net programs and hindering workers' ability to improve their economic futures. But the harms of wage theft also extend beyond its immediate victims, reducing taxable income and exerting downward pressure on the wages of all workers in affected industries. Law-abiding business owners are also harmed as their competitors unlawfully trim labor costs*.

9. What steps will you take toward eliminating all forms of wage theft and fostering an environment of worker protections throughout the District of Columbia?

I have prioritized fighting wage theft and ensuring that all workers receive the wages and benefits they earn. I'm determined to use the power of the government on behalf of vulnerable workers and against businesses that make their money by stealing from employees.

As Attorney General, I worked with the Council to pass legislation granting my office independent authority to investigate wage theft cases and increasing penalties on businesses that violate the law. I have already exercised that independent authority and brought wage theft cases on behalf of home healthcare workers and others, and are working to recover wages and damages for workers. My office is also currently investigating wage theft claims in industries ranging from fast food to construction.

In addition to taking legal action, my office has produced materials in English and Spanish aimed at educating workers about their legal rights, and produced a wage and hour log book to aid employees in keeping track of when they work and how much they earn.

Moving forward, I plan to continue to use my enhanced authority strategically to protect workers and deter bad actors. And, in the future, if investigations reveal that employers have willfully committed serious violations, I will not hesitate to pursue criminal charges.

While wage theft is pervasive and highly damaging, there is some good news: the problem is not unassailable. To be most effective, anti-wage theft laws must be meaningfully and

effectively enforced, and must be accompanied by other legal provisions that empower victims to speak up against their abuse, such as strong anti-retaliation laws.

10. Will you work with community groups, city administration and others to support proven programs that combat wage theft: Community engagement in language access programs; Public Education Partnerships; the Development of Community Allies to assist with third party enforcement?

Yes

No

11. Will you increase funding in the departments and programs that have proven to ensure that workers are paid correctly and made aware of their rights under the law, such as: increased funding in DOES for investigators, funding for community members who are third party enforcers; increased penalties for employers who violate the laws and; funding for a robust Public Awareness and Accountability Program?

Yes

No

N/A

12. Will you provide the funding to implement the Procurement Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability Amendment Act of 2016, which requires that city contracts above \$75 million have a Project-Labor Agreement?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

N/A

13. Income and racial inequality are growing in DC. What would you do to address that?

As Attorney General, I am focused on enforcing District law and fighting to make DC safer and more fair for everyone. As I already discussed, I have prioritized protecting workers' rights and fighting wage theft. My other priorities include protecting tenants and preserving affordable housing, protecting vulnerable people—especially seniors—from scams, fraud, and abuse, and reforming our justice system to enhance both public safety and fairness for all our residents.

As Attorney General, I have exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile prosecutions in the District of Columbia, and I recognize that we need to be smart on crime as opposed to just “tough,” and that old “tough on crime” strategies have disproportionately impacted the poor and people of color. As part of a broad juvenile justice reform effort, we have looked for innovative, data-driven programs that make our community safer and put young people who commit low-level offenses on a path to success.

We have significantly increased the rate at which we divert young offenders to the Alternatives to Court Experience (ACE) Diversion Program run by the DC Department of Human Services. It is an evidence-based program that aims to address the underlying problems that bring young people into contact with the justice system in the first place. ACE effectively rehabilitates young people by providing individually-tailored services, including therapy, treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues, anger management, mentoring and opportunities for enrichment. While prosecuting and jailing young low-level offenders can increase their risk of recidivism, ACE reduces that risk and helps them get on the right path. Of the over 2,000 young people diverted to ACE so far, about 78% have not even been re-arrested.

Our Restorative Justice program is another major effort to end the school-to-prison pipeline. Restorative justice is a way to resolve conflicts that focuses on repairing harm. It brings those affected by a crime together to hold offenders accountable and empower victims. Nationwide, statistics show these programs have better success at rehabilitating offenders, increasing victim satisfaction, and lowering costs. We participated in a successful pilot program at Ballou High School and subsequently hired staff to work on cases referred by our prosecutors. As far as we know, we are the first prosecutor's office to run an in-house restorative justice program.

I plan to continue to expand these and other efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline and other highways to incarceration for kids if I am elected to serve a second term.

F: Transportation: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

1. Do you believe that any privatization of public transit is acceptable for the improvement of service at WMATA, DC Streetcar or DC Circulator? If so, please explain.

Yes No other (explain below)

N/A

2. In the 2018 legislative session in Maryland, ATU Local 689 aggressively pursued legislation to see assaults on transit workers charged as an automatic felony. Will you work to make sure D.C. joins Maryland in raising the penalty of assaults on transit employees?

Yes No

I support evidence-based public safety policies, and would be interested in learning more from you about this issue and how we can best protect transit workers from violence in their workplace.

1. CLASS I / Freight & Passenger Railroad – Safety & Security

Union Station is the second busiest station in the national Amtrak network with five million annual passengers. MARC, and Virginia Railroad Express (VRE) transport daily 50,000 commuters and visitors to the District of Columbia. The combined ridership for Amtrak, MARC, and VRE is expected to increase from 14 million – 34 million by 2040.

Freight railroad traffic through the District of Columbia is projected to increase by 57% to 48 daily double-stacked freight trains from the Ports of Norfolk, Charleston, Jacksonville, and Miami.

Wards 4,5,6,7 host the railroad corridors with a combined population of 297,747 residents equaling forty-four (44%) percent of the total population. Our 700,000 population is projected to increase by 30% by 2040. Many of these new residents will live and work in the old and new communities adjacent to railroad corridors.

The past two years the District of Columbia has experienced major railroad incidents:

- May 2016 - 170 car CSX train freight train derailed in Ward 5 traveling through the District of Columbia on the CSX Capital Sub-Division from Cumberland, Maryland to Hamlet, North Carolina. Fourteen cars derailed with seven tanker cars containing sodium hydroxide, ethanol, and calcium chloride leaking its contents.
- June 2017 – Two CSX Transportation employees were struck and killed by a southbound Amtrak Train No. 175 north of Union Station in the Ivy City.

In 2017, the Council approved the Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act (D.C. Law 21-254) authorizing the creation of an Emergency Response and Rail Safety Division within the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). It also would establish of a Railroad Advisory Board.

2. In FY 2018 budget, the Council did not appropriate any funding to establish the State Rail Safety Office. Would you support full funding to establish the Rail Safety Office in the FY 2019 budget?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

As Attorney General, I do not have any budgetary authority. However, I support evidence-based policies that enhance public safety and workplace safety, and would certainly support efforts to increase rail safety in the District.

3. Would you support an amendment to D.C. Law 21-254 “Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act” authorizing the DOEE to assess penalties and fines for safety or security violations on the railroads operating in the District of Columbia?

Yes No other (explain below)

N/A

G. Utility Issues: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet)

I. DC Water – Clean River Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Fee

Over past 30 years, the Metropolitan Washington Council / AFL-CIO has opposed policies that denied reasonable, fair, and equitable utility rates to District of Columbia residents.

It is our view the (Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge) CRIAC being imposed on ratepayers by DC Water is of these policies. The CRIAC is onerous and undermines public support for Clean River Projects to improve storm water management and the Anacostia River.

More importantly, the CRIAC fee disproportionately affects senior citizens, working families, and long-term homeowners. It is also contributing to accelerated gentrification and the de-stabilization of many legacy neighborhoods and communities. The CRIAC fee is making the District of Columbia unaffordable for its many public servants and residents. DC Water must develop a plan to broaden its rate base, to include assessments on the District of Columbia and Federal Governments.

The Metropolitan Washington Council Labor Council is committed to reducing the financial burden of the CRIAC charges and a more equitable formula to fund restoration and preservation of the Anacostia River.

If elected to the Council of the District of Columbia, will you commit to:

14. Do you support efforts to reduce and expand the distribution of CRIAC charges across rate groups?

Yes No other (explain below)

15. Do you support greater oversight of DC Water operations and ratemaking? Including

requiring Council approvals for all new fees, charges and rate hikes imposed on District of Columbia ratepayers.

Yes

No

other (explain below)

H. Retail/Budget

1. Do you support Fair Scheduling legislation to require employers to give retail and restaurant workers their weekly work schedules at least two weeks in advance, and requires employers to offer part-time workers more hours when a fellow employee leaves, rather than hiring additional employees?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

I support Fair Scheduling legislation and protections for workers. In fact, I have already worked with other Attorneys General and

2. What are your top three priorities for the DC budget?

1. Violence prevention – I believe we need to treat violence as a public health crisis and implement evidence-based programs that have successfully
2. Affordable housing -
3. Consumer protection -

Candidate (Please Print Legibly): Karl Racine

Date: 5/9/18

Thank you.