

#

# 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:

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##### 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jeremiah Lowery\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3910 Georgia Ave NW #406\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City / County \_\_\_Washington, D.C.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_20011\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_(202) 643-4573\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_info@jeremiah2018.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for**:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_At Large DC Council \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Committee Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_Jeremiah At Large 2018. 3910 Georgia Ave NW #406, Washington, DC 20011\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Campaign Committee Phone: \_\_\_(202) 643-4573\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email / Web \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Michela Cirioni\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Karen Cordry

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Previously elected / appointed office**:**

Office \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever received labor’s endorsement? \_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR’S ENDORSEMENT:**

Being pro-labor and worker is in my DNA. 10 years ago, after I graduated college, I had the privilege to be employed by the American Federation of Teachers, where I stood on the frontlines with teachers as they were being attacked by a right-wing anti worker agenda.

10 years after, I am still on the frontlines. I had the opportunity to be one of the lead organizers of the paid sick days campaign and campaign to raise the minimum wage. I also have had the opportunity to contribute to legislation to ban the box, prevent wage theft, and create a pro worker position on the DC Food Policy Council.

I also served as the chair of the NAACP-DC Chapter’s labor committee, where we held events to connect labor to the movement to end racial injustices.

Deep in my soul, I believe that every worker in DC should have the right to collective bargaining and a union, and I will fight hard to make sure that becomes a reality.

The Labor’s endorsement would be an endorsement of one of their own, and I promise to to prioritize each and every single policy that matters to our labor movement.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_5/9/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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**

# 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?

  **X Support Oppose Not sure**

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

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

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

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

 **X Support Oppose Not sure**

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

 **X Support Oppose Not sure**

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

  **X 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.

1. Would you support Right to Work in DC?

**Yes X 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.

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

  **Support X 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.

1. 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?

  **X Yes No not sure**

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

While a policy coordinator for Restaurant Opportunities Center - DC, I was one of the lead organizers of the paid sick days campaign and campaign to raise the minimum wage. I also played a supporting role in the anti-wage theft campaign, and ban the box campaign.

When the Council was drafting the bill to create the DC Food Policy Council, I was able to edit the bill to ensure the Food Policy Council priorities and puts out a report on the state of food service workers

I am also a former employee of the American Federation of Teacher, where I worked on community engagement programs to shine teachers in a positive light and supported legislation to end the attacks on our public school teachers

# B: Workforce Violence:

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

Workplace violence in the Hospital and Health Care facilities causes trauma to the worker, turnover, and many assaults and threats go unreported.

There are alot of strategies and policies to prevent work-place violence but we need:

* Introduce legislation to hold management accountable. The ensure that management is at the table addressing work place violence, but oftentimes management is reluctant to act. I will work with the Nurses union on for legislative ways to hold management accountable
* Create a system that makes reporting easier, not harder for workers. I will use every legislative tool hold CEOs and management accountable to creating a reporting system that is easier for workers.
* We need pass the The Patient Protection Act. We can no longer just give it lip serve and a simple statement of support, we need a council who will fight for its passage. I will be a council member who will be very vocal in ensuring it passes.
1. How do you see yourself as an elected leader championing this issue for workers?

I have been championing workers’ issues for over a decade in Washington, DC, and I want to continue that journey on the D.C. Council

If elected, I plan to hire a labor-workers’ community engagement policy coordinator, to attend and report on all labor meetings, as well as work closely with all unions to introduce pro worker bills, develop campaign strategies, and support pro worker budget priorities

**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, and I would champion the legislation my first year in office

1. 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?

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

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

We need to speed up the process of the completion of a state-of-art hospital east of the year. We also need high-quality community health centers and trauma centers in every ward in DC.

We need to pass the The Patient Protection Act. Nurses are overwhelmed, and it leads to patients not receiving the appropriate care they need

We need to fully implement the paid family leave law, and ensure laws like paid family leave and paid sick days are being implemented properly.

Will you highlight these problems in your election campaign?

**X 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?

**XYes No Other (explain below)**

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

**XYes No Other (explain below)**

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

**XYes No Other (explain below)**

1. 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?

**XYes No Other (explain below)**

**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 think we need to stop the attacks on public teachers and traditional public schools, we need to ensure we stop closing down traditional public schools, only to build private or charter schools. I will be a strong fighter for funding for traditional public schools.

I will introduce a bill to change the DC hatch Act to allow all DC government employees (including teachers) to run for office in DC. We need more pro-public sector union candidates running for office.

We should allow public union more say in the recruitment of government workers.

We should also give all DC public sector unions free community space in a building owned by the district government, to serve a resource and community center for union members.

1. 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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

1. 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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

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

Accountability obsession and lack of support for teachers has lead to teacher churn. I will look at all legislative solutions to give teachers more classroom autonomy, and I will work with the chancellor to create a system where we are supporting principal training and recruitment (principals who foster a positive environment for teachers), and on a yearly basis I will have my staff work with WTU and the administration to analyze the conditions associated with turnover so that better policy strategies can be developed and implemented.

1. 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?

Until we end mayoral control, the council has the responsibility to demand true transparency from DCPS, the mayor, and the charter sector to ensure that students receive the education and services they need.

I will introduce a bill to require that all school appropriations be published online. The council should conduct data analytics to identify misappropriation of funds, and follow that up with hearings on the related findings and evidence of misappropriation.

DCPS and Charter Schools both have to work to be more transparent for teachers and parents. I would introduce a bill to subject charters to FOIA requests.

1. 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?

Ideally standardized testing provides an objective measure of student achievement and ensures all students are receiving the education they deserve unrelated to race or class. In practice, standardized testing is used to justify unaccountable corporate-funded reforms and has led to an increase in the achievement gap.

Education reform has failed. School closures and corporate attacks on public school students have resegregated schools and worsened inequality. We have policies that make it easy to expel the students who need the most help.

* What will you do to address this problem?

We need policies that ensure students who want to go to school are given the support they need rather than being removed. We also need a system for identifying at-risk/high-cost students. We also need to reduce student mobility from school to school.

If Elected I will:

* I will introduce a bill to direct OSSE to develop a 5-year plan to expand universal pre-k to 0-3, and develop a funding mechanism. The plan would ensure all parents have access to high-quality care and it would create thousands of public sector jobs.
* I would work with WTU to develop a campaign to end mayoral control of schools and put control/power back into the hands of the elected school board/community.
* I would support laws that mandate that the data (PARCC) is available to the teachers educating our students.

1. 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 will work with the chancellor to create a system where we are supporting principal training and recruitment (principals who foster a positive environment for teachers).

I will work with the Teachers Unions on a campaign strategy to extend due process rights to principals and assistant principals in DC.

 I will introduce a bill to end mayoral control of schools and put more power back into the hands of an elected school board, a body that is better equipped to deal with selection of a Chancellor.

**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 will1) 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?

**X Yes                        ☐ No**

1. 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?

**XYes                        ☐ No**

1. 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?

**X Yes                        ☐ No**

1. 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.

1. 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?

**X Yes                        ☐ No**

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

**☐ Yes                        X No**

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.

1. 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?

**X Yes                        ☐ No**

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

**X Yes                        ☐ No**

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\*.

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

As an advocate, I testified in favor of the Wage Theft Prevention Clarification and Overtime Fairness Amendment Act of 2015, and I was a member of the Anti wage-theft coalitions that unions and advocates formed to work on legislation to prevent wage-theft.

On the Council, I will be a strong watchdog during oversight hearings to ensure our anti-wage theft bills are being enforced, and will demand to see yearly reports on the status of our anti-wage theft laws. I will also work with the unions on ways to transform and and strengthen the office of wage-hour.

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.

1. 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?

 **X Yes                        ☐ No**

1. 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?

 **X Yes                        ☐ No**

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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

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

I am proposing extending access to high quality childcare, using legislative means to ensure all parents have access. Right now, DC has the most expensive childcare system in the United States and many low-to-middle income parents have to make the choice of working or staying home and watching their kid(s). Universal childcare also means universal overnight childcare as well.

Ensuring increased access to childcare would allow more parents (especially low-to-no income parents) to enter the workforce or continue their education. I would also work to ensure that paid family leave (a campaign that I was actively involved in) is fully funded and implemented properly. Also, as one of the lead organizers of the campaigns to raise the minimum wage and expand paid sick days, I will work to ensure DOES is enforcing the law (as well as our anti-wage theft laws).

As a member of the DC Food Policy Council and board member of the DC Sierra Club, I have worked with coalitions on expanding grocery store access East of River, and have supported policies to expand transportation options to all parts of the city. Food and transportation are big budget items for low income residents and I will be a strong advocate who will work with coalitions to make food and public transportation equitable for all residents.

Housing is also a big cause of income inequality in DC. I think we need to:

Reform rent control: Right now landlords and developers can exploit provisions in DC’s rent control law: They’re able to use rent adjustment petitions to get tenants to sign “voluntary agreements” and hardship petitions to increase rents far above rent control limits. We need to close these loopholes that some developers and landlords have been exploiting. I would work with advocates to close these loopholes and strengthen our rent control law.

Expand and increase funding for affordable housing: We need to build more units of affordable housing for low-to-very-low income residents in DC.

I will also fight hard to ensure we stop closing traditional public neighborhood schools in

DC. I was endorsed by the Washington Teachers Union, and I plan on being a Washington

Teachers Union Council member.

Lastly, I will work to implement the NEAR Act, which is a public health approach to

addressing public safety, with a strong emphasis on funding for mental health programs and

community engagement.

# 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                        **X No** other (explain below)

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?

**X Yes**                      ☐ No

I also support placing violence interrupters mandated by the NEAR Act on buses in DC, to reduce violence committed by youth on buses.

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.

1. 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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

# 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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

# 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:

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

**XYes No other (explain below)**

1. 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.

**XYes 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?

**XYes No other (explain below)**

* 1. What are your top three priorities for the DC budget?
* Funding to extend access to high quality childcare to working parents. Including oversight childcare.
* Housing and Homelessness - I will prioritize funding to ensure we are meeting our goals to end chronic homelessness, I will also prioritize funding for public housing repairs, and additional units of housing for low-to-very-low income workers
* Renewable energy funding- I will prioritize funding to meet our goals to push DC towards a 100 percent clean energy city, in order to lower our energy bills and reduce carbon pollution.

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# Candidate (Please Print Legibly): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jeremiah Lowery\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5/9/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Thank you.