



**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 Kent Boese

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Candidate for: Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 1

Campaign Committee Name and Address: Boese 2018, 608 Rock Creek Church Rd, NW

Campaign Committee Phone: 202-525-7682 Email / Web
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Campaign Manager: William E. Brown Jr.

Campaign Treasurer: Matthew Goldschmidt

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? YES

Previously elected / appointed office:

Office Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 1A08 Term 2017-2018

Office Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 1A08 Term 2015-2016

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? No When?

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

I deeply value labor's history of advocacy and success in securing good, well-paying jobs that allow hard working people to provide for their families. I look forward to becoming a true partner with labor to ensure that no District resident gets left behind as our city continues to grow and prosper.

SIGNATURE: Kent Boese DATE: 5/8/18

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?

RESPONSE: As this is my first campaign for the District of Columbia Council, I do not have a legislative history to share. However, as an elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, now serving in my eighth year with five years as Chair of ANC1A, I have a strong record of being fair, unbiased, and fighting for community

service results, especially for our most vulnerable neighbors. I have worked tirelessly and carried the heavy water on getting the Park Morton Public Housing development back on track to preserve 147 units of public housing while creating 155 additional apartments for middle income families without in a way that will not displace a single family from their neighborhood. I have additionally worked with neighbors and the District as a strong advocate and leader to bring the vacant Hebrew Home for the Aged building back to life with 90 new apartments for seniors on fixed incomes.

B: Workforce Violence:

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

RESPONSE: We must do more to keep our health care professionals safe while on the job. According to OSHA, the rate of serious workplace violence among workers in hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare settings was more than four times greater than in private industry on average. Healthcare accounts for nearly as many serious violent injuries as all other industries combined ... and many more assaults or threats go unreported. We need to do more to build, improve, and implement comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs in our hospitals and healthcare facilities.

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

RESPONSE: As an elected leader, I would champion issues related to worker safety in healthcare facilities in several ways. There are many factors that can impact worker safety, meaning we need a comprehensive understanding and program to make healthcare facilities safe for all. These include:

- Addressing overcrowded emergency rooms or long waits due to low staffing. When someone needs urgent medical care but must wait for an extended time for treatment, anxiety and frustration from both the patient and their family may trigger violence.
- We must have adequate healthcare facilities available to every resident. This includes east of the river. The United Medical Center, for example, must be well managed and fully staffed to meet our healthcare needs. I agree that a new facility is needed, but buildings along don't make for safe workplaces or excellent healthcare. Many of the problems known to United Medical Center can and need to be addressed now.
- We need better coordination, communication, and training between healthcare workers and local law enforcement. We know that synthetic marijuana products often led to more violent patients – but we didn't have a coordinated response that prepared healthcare workers to treat these patients when they arrived for treatment. We need a way to share information about patients that are dangerous, or likely to be dangerous, so that healthcare workers can provide treatment

without being put in harm's way. We must have better training for hospital security and staff, as well as police, on how to handle emerging drug trends that require erratic patients to be brought to the hospital in the first place.

- Some healthcare facilities have reduced assaults by hiring off-duty, armed police officers to maintain a presence in their emergency rooms. While I would prefer to make our healthcare facilities safe places to work through other strategies, for facilities that determine that this is necessary I would support off-duty police officers being hired for this purpose. With proper training, this could have the added benefit of having police officers more able to address public health aspects of calls for service when they are in our neighborhoods.

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

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?

RESPONSE: When it comes to healthcare, historically we have attempted to address disparities through our health care system. However, to make real differences we need to also look at complex social factors that impact health. Socioeconomic conditions that impact healthcare for African Americans include unemployment, median household incomes, and education. So we need to support collaborative efforts between employers and training institutions to offer pipeline workforce development and jobs skills training programs and need to address the flaws in our

public education system. Also, access to healthy food is essential, and the District needs to address the “food deserts” in Wards 7 and 8. We need full service grocery stores east of the river and should support farmers markets and corner stores to include healthier food options and to accept SNAP benefits.

Will you highlight these problems in your election campaign?

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

RESPONSE: I will highlight them as they relate to the concerns of Ward 1 residents while on the campaign and will work with my Council colleagues to reduce the disparities once elected.

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)**

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

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

I support efforts to eliminate surprise medical bills, which often occurs due to oblique pricing practices and narrowing payer networks. Prohibiting “balance billing” is one way to address it and might be the best way to do it. Another avenue I would explore, would be to require physicians affiliated with healthcare facilities and hospitals to contract with the same plans as those facilities. This, too, would go a long way to eliminate unexpected bills. Lastly, the District should establish a contingency fund for hospitals that primarily serve low-income residents to access when the cost of service exceeds insurance reimbursements. Such a fund would greatly assist Howard University Hospital, which has functioned largely as a hospital of last resort following the closure of DC General.

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)

RESPONSE: I do not support private insurance corporations profiting from our Medicaid program. My primary concern is always going to be service to residents and patients, and I would support “in-sourcing” DC’s Medicaid program provided it was well run and managed, maintained or improved service to Medicaid recipients, and fiscally responsible.

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)

All residents deserve health care as a right, regardless of employment or income. Our current way of paying for health care is not only inequitable, but also a more expensive approach. A single-payer system would save money long-term, but the challenge is that it would require a large startup cost in the short term. We would need to find a way to overcome this hurdle.

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*?**

RESPONSE: I would begin by meeting with members of the AFL-CIO and Delegate Elenore Homes Norton to develop a strategy to address and correct the *Janus vs.*

AFSCME decision. If the Supreme Court rules against unions, the most effective course of action we can take is to lobby Congress for new legislation that will support and state in no uncertain terms that public employees have the right to organize and bargain collectively. If Congress fails to act, we must look to our local government to see where we can legally support and restore rights that will be lost in the Supreme Court ruling.

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)

Over the past year, and in particular during the past few months, I've come to the position that the State Board of Education and/or some version of the former School Board needs to be empowered to guide education, make decisions related to a school superintendent, and even play a role in school principals and achievement. Restoring a DCPS Superintendent, someone who is accredited with a background in education would be a significant step in the right direction. The strongest tool we have in any situation is oversight and a system of checks and balances. I do not believe that a School Board needs to manage facilities and facility maintenance. This works well and rightly belongs under the District Government as it has a direct link to the annual budget and neighborhood infrastructure needs.

One of the strongest reasons I can think of for having responsibility shared between a School Board and District government comes down to advocacy. In the current structure (where teachers ultimately report to a Chancellor and fall under the purview of the Deputy Mayor for Education) teachers are largely silenced from open advocacy and council testimony to bring to light the challenges their schools face. This is wrong. Teachers need to be free to participate in any public forum where their experience adds so much to the dialogue. Currently, teachers are largely denied this right and may face disciplinary action if they publicly engage. This leaves them with no choice but to rely on parents and allies, who may not always fully understand an issue or have the same priorities as educators.

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)

RESPONSE: The two areas I want to focus on in particular is reevaluating the IMPACT evaluation system, particularly with the goal of decoupling teacher performance evaluations from student test scores and update the 2010 Local Hatch Act to permit teachers to run for public office. I believe school teachers in the District of Columbia should have the same rights and privileges as any other jurisdiction in the United States. I feel even more strongly about this for DC since we are a small jurisdiction with an incredible number of talented residents and teachers. We want our brightest and most capable residents to be engaged civically, including serving in public office.

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

We have lost number of good teachers because we require them to perform in a tightly scripted format, giving them little to no room to adapt to the needs of their students. The focus needs to be on educating, not adhering to some rubric that isn't aligned with superior outcomes.

Churn in any profession is a problem, teacher churn is no different. We need to invest in teachers just as we are investing in children. We need a fair evaluation process, and one that provides opportunities to develop teachers where there is room to grow. No one regardless of where they are in their career can know everything and we shouldn't expect them to. What we should expect is for teachers to become more experience and proficient year-after-year and give them the freedom and professional respect to adapt to the needs of their students. This will not happen if the teachers have no voice and are subject to capricious evaluations and reviews.

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?**

I would like to see the creation of an online portal that tracks school funding, by school, for all funding streams -- from At-Risk Funding to English Language Learners to school modernization projects, etc. For money to be moved from one school to another, I would advocate for the system to require an explanation/purpose

statement when funding is moved so that there is a trail that can be followed including the decision tree.

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?**

Factors leading to achievement gaps include hunger, testing and teaching methods that may not be culturally aligned to students, do not take into account socio-economic factors, and a reliance on technology and computers for testing when children from lower income families don't have access to these tools on a regular basis. Given the constraints of the IMPACT evaluation, teachers are further hindered from providing holistic, hands-on and interactive teaching opportunities. Without the ability to meet students' social and emotional needs through emotionally safe learning communities, the achievement gap will continue to widen rather than narrow.

Truancy is still too high in the District, and this has a significant impact on achievement -- but truancy is often a symptom, not the cause. Reasons leading to truancy can range from parents who are unengaged to children who need to help care for siblings or are caught by delayed public transportation. Additionally, some of our high schools lock their doors once school begins and do not allow late students to attend classes for the entire day. This has a significant demoralizing impact on students who are taught that the school does not care about them or their success. This can lead to students who later decide to just not try. We must not punish children by stripping away their civil right to education due to circumstances beyond their control.

- **What will you do to address this problem?**

I will support any policy that is evidence-based and has demonstrated a real and sustainable reduction in the District's achievement gap. Specifically, we need policies that empower teachers to provide holistic teaching approaches and find ways to meet the emotional needs of our students. We also need to stop the practice of locking schools and denying children who are late from attending classes. Lastly, we need to find ways to ensure that all students have regular and sustained access to computers and technology -- even outside the classroom.

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?**

RESPONSE; I believe that retention and reappointment of school Principals and Assistant Principals should not be at the sole discretion of one person. A fairer approach would be for the Chancellor/Superintendent to recommend dismissal to the School Board to review the merits of the case and render a determination. There also needs to be an Ombudsman so that Principals and Assistant Principals have a process to appeal and protect their rights.

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

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

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

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

Yes No

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

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

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*.

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?

RESPONSE: I will work with the Department of Employment Services to make sure the Office of Wage Hour Compliance has the funding and staffing necessary to provide the oversight needed to ensure that wage theft does not occur in the District, or that when it does corrective actions are taken. A key part of this is oversight on the District of Columbia's Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014 and reviewing if the outcomes of the act are meeting expectations. The purpose of the Act is to enhance remedies, fines, administrative penalties, and enforcement of wage payment and collection laws by increasing the accountability of employers and strengthening worker protection laws. The act also establishes a formal hearing process with enforceable judgments; and provides for better access to legal representation for victims of wage payment violations, while making it easier for workers to collect awards from businesses who fail to pay, either in whole or in part, an employee's regular wages.

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

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)

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

RESPONSE: To address income and racial inequality in the District, we need to focus on fixing our education system, supporting our small and local businesses to grow jobs and lower unemployment, and provide vocational training for residents who want to work but do not have the skills being sought. Furthermore, we need to invest in building more housing for low- and middle-income families so that families are not spending all of their income on rent, and we need to provide more funding for Purchase Assistance Programs that allow families to buy their own home. Much of the income and racial inequality in DC that we are confronted with is due to African American families being denied opportunities to buy property, own a home, and build personal wealth. This alone has created generational wealth in white families that had long been denied to African American families. Providing African American families to opportunity to have an equity stake in new housing will help build that generational wealth within the African American community.

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)

RESPONSE: I understand that many argue that privatization will lower overall transit costs with little to no impact on quality of service, however I think the cost savings comes primarily from reducing salaries, the number of transit workers, and the hours transit workers are on the clock. In a city as expensive as Washington, I firmly believe that we can pay transit employees what they are worth and a living wage so that they can afford to live and raise their families in the city where they work. Lastly, I believe that with privatization we would lose a degree of control on where routes exist, and which neighborhoods are served. I think there is value in maintaining that oversight.

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

RESPONSE: Yes, because not only is an assault on a transit worker unacceptable under any circumstances, an assault on transit workers also endangers the lives of the general public, the very lives these employees are entrusted to get from point A to point B safely.

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)

RESPONSE: Public and railroad employee safety are important. We should fund the laws we enact. In a city with a growing population and tax base, and with the growth in population in close proximity to railroad corridors, we need to find a way to fund this as soon as possible, ideally in FY 2019.

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)

RESPONSE: Absolutely. While the goal is to never have violations, unsafe situations, or accidents resulting in loss of life, they can and do happen. Fines would be on way to both reduce accidents and provide revenue to fund the work of the Railroad Advisory Board.

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)

I do believe DC Water attempted to find a fair way to pay for the Clean River Project by imposing the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge, but the reality is that the way it is being implemented and assessed is causing genuine hardship among churches, cemeteries, seniors, and lower-income families. Many cemeteries are at least a century old, and while they have a lot of impervious surfaces, they also have a lot of pervious service and storm water runoff doesn't occur there the same way it does on a parking lot. Similarly zoning require that new church construction provides one off-street parking spot per 10 church members. There for zoning requires impervious surfaces that DC Water seeks to tax. We must have a review of these policies to meet the goals of paying for the Clean River Project in a balanced and equitable manner that does not push out longtime communities or hasten gentrification.

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)

Yes, I would like all of our utilities, whether PEPCO or DC Water, to have a similar review process for rate increases that includes Council review and approval. The goal should not be to deny the utilities the funds they need to fulfill their missions, but rather to provide input on how rates impact vulnerable communities and are assessed equitably.

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)

Giving hourly-employees a more predictable work schedule is beneficial, would improve workers' overall quality of life, help them budget, schedule child care, plan for transportation, and even coordinate schedules with school, classes or other jobs if they are working part-time.

The Council's decision to table the legislation in 2016 due to concerns with its impact on costs to employers is valid, however, we must continue to balance our efforts to improve working conditions with what is needed for small and local businesses to thrive and grow. We need healthy and vibrant businesses

to create the jobs that unemployed Ward 1 and District residents need and rely upon.


A way to get the Fair Scheduling bill back on track for a vote could be to reduce the mandate that employers give notice of employees scheduled hours from two weeks to one week, or even possibly 10 days and consider exempting businesses with under 15 employees. Another approach would be to review all the challenges and regulations currently creating barriers and unnecessary expenses to businesses with the goal of reducing the cost of doing business in the District. By doing this, we balance the financial concerns our businesses face and create the capacity for them to support efforts like Fair Scheduling without creating a severe impact to their bottom line. By working with small businesses and labor advocacy groups, I believe we can create a consensus on this issue.

- **Should apply to businesses with 15 or more employees**

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

RESPONSE: My top three priorities for the DC budget are housing, education, and jobs. To address income and racial inequality in the District, we need to focus on fixing our education system, supporting our small and local businesses to grow jobs and lower unemployment, and provide vocational training for residents who want to work but do not have the skills being sought. Furthermore, we need to invest in building more housing for low- and middle-income families so that families are not spending all of their income on rent, and we need to provide more funding for Purchase Assistance Programs that allow families to buy their own home.

Candidate (Please Print Legibly): Kent C. Boese

Signature: 

Date: 5/8/2018

Thank you.