



WIN's DRAFT 2022 ISSUE AGENDA

Affordable Homes, Black Wealth Building, Community-Based Public Safety,
Climate Action Through Affordable Buildings, Public Transit, Careers & Family Sustaining Jobs

This agenda is the result of listening to thousands of DC residents to hear what is important to them and their communities. We are non-partisan, we never endorse any candidates. Still, we invite each candidate to endorse OUR agenda. WIN believes that we can build a more racially and economically just District together.

AFFORDABLE HOMES

BLACK EQUITY THROUGH HOMEOWNERSHIP

WIN is organizing to stop displacement and build Black wealth. All residents who grew up in D.C. serve our District through non-profits, and the government should afford a home here. Historically U.S. policies of redlining and systemically racist policies have encouraged and subsidized homeownership for white Americans and disadvantaged homeownership for people of color, especially Black Americans. We have the opportunity in D.C. to support policies that create a more equitable future. Specially, we propose in 2022:

- **At least \$100 million in NEW operating funds dedicated over the next 4 years for potential home-owners.** This includes expanding programs currently working but underfunded and oversubscribed in DC, such as down payment assistance programs. Also, adopting best practices from other states that support potential homeowners weighed down by student loan debt.
- **Capital funds to repair homes and pass them on to the next generation.** A barrier for some is the funding needed to make repairs before passing the home along to the next generation.
- **Turn Blight into homes.** There are more than 3,000 vacant houses in the District. Let's turn hundreds a year into homes.
- **We imagine thousands of homeownership opportunities on public lands.** (see below)

PUBLIC LAND INTO AFFORDABLE HOMES

WIN envisions the use of public lands for mixed income affordable housing and low and middle income homeownership. Specifically:

- **A standard of at least ⅓ deeply affordable ⅓ middle income and ⅓ market rate on all public lands.**
- **1000 Homes for Black Homeownership on Reservation 13.**
- **RFK. When D.C. gets the land, let's turn parking lots into thousands of affordable homes and at least 2,000 affordable homeownership opportunities.**
- **400+ new affordable housing units on public land in Ward 3,** including WMATA land, Ft. Reno, Chevy Chase & Tenleytown Libraries
- **Maximize building of new homes, while preserving existing homes on DC Housing Authority-owned land**

PUBLIC HOUSING RENOVATION WITHOUT DISPLACEMENT

WIN is organizing for the renovation of public housing so people can live in dignity without displacement. Specifically for:

- **Commitment to work with WIN and residents in Benning Terrace, Hopkins, Judiciary House, Langston, Potomac Gardens Senior and Family and Districtwide around their specific resident led priorities and visions for repairs, renovations, and redevelopment.**
- **Redevelopment and renovation to INCREASE and never DECREASE the number of affordable units.** 1:1 replacement should mean replacement in-kind so that a three-bedroom unit replaces a three-bedroom unit. If an accessible unit is destroyed, then this unit should be replaced with an accessible unit.



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- **Build First to minimize displacement of residents.** Too often, the promise of redevelopment has led to displacement. New units should be built first before residents have to relocate.

FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WIN supports funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund, rent supplements, funding for operating and capital for the Housing Authority, and other funding sources. We stand together with the allied organizations including CNHED and DCFPI in our support.

PUBLIC SAFETY

WIN is organizing for safe communities with net zero homicides. Communities directly affected by violence should be at the center shaping solutions and have the resources they need to thrive. We want our elected officials to work with WIN and ally organizations to:

- **Fully fund and implement the reforms set forth in the [Police Reform Commission Report April 1, 2021](#)** that includes: increasing the number of “violence interrupters”, dispatching mental health providers in response to 911 calls involving people in crisis, investment in evidence based culturally competent behavioral health and wellness services, and a holistic public health approach to school safety that is relational, racially just, restorative, trauma responsive and trauma informed including additional school counselors and clinicians.
- **Support the passage of the [Decriminalization of Juvenile Offenses Act of 2021](#)**

CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH HOUSING AND TRANSIT

Buildings are the number one drivers of climate emissions in the District largely because they still rely on methane gas for heating, cooling and cooking. WIN is organizing to address climate change and housing affordability at the same time by pushing for subsidies to upgrade and electrify heating systems and insulate homes, while preserving units as affordable. We also support the expansion of public transit, especially to connect under resourced communities to economic opportunity. Specifically for 2022:

- **Propose and work with us to pass legislation to divert at least \$1 billion from Washington Gas Subsidy to electrifying and green thousands of units of housing.** Ratepayer money should not go toward subsidizing climate polluting energy of the past - but rather a climate friendly future.
- **Green Building Analysis funds.** A barrier to greening buildings is the upfront cost to assess what retrofits are needed. We propose a dedicated multi-million fund to help building owners assess what is needed to green their building. There are similar programs in New York state that have helped ease the barriers to retrofits.
- **Support public transit.** Transportation is the number two driver of climate emissions in the District. If we want to address climate change we need to get people out of cars and into safe, accessible and affordable public transportation in all neighborhoods of the District .

CAREERS AND FAMILY SUSTAINING JOBS

WIN is organizing in solidarity with public transit workers who are essential workers, climate workers, and who deserve promising living wage and union careers. WIN is organizing to increase the wages and benefits utility workers who work for Pepco contractors, with legislation before the council now. Pepco has also agreed to increase local D.C. hiring to 100 new careers a year in the electric sector. We organized for and won local hiring on D.C. Water stormwater projects needed to make the District more resilient in the face of climate change. We seek to continue to connect the next generation of D.C. residents to promising living wage and union careers addressing climate change. We challenge District leaders to continue to build on this work and connect District residents, especially in under-resourced communities, to promising careers.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN)?

WIN is a non-partisan network of faith institutions, non-profits, unions, and neighborhood leaders across all eight wards of the District. In an increasingly polarized time, we unite people across race, class, religion, and neighborhood to build power for social justice. We organize ordinary people to take actions that strengthen and improve the quality of life of our communities. We believe people working together have the power to change and create a more just and equitable District. WIN builds power around issues facing our communities like affordable housing, public safety, family-sustaining jobs, and increasing Black wealth.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO ORGANIZE?

Since our founding in 1996, the organizing of WIN leaders and allies has led to numerous victories, including the direct creation of over 2,800 units of affordable housing and securing the funding for thousands more units across the district. WIN was a part of demanding and winning the first Housing Production Trust Fund, building up to \$100 million a year since mid-2010. Last year with a \$450 Million Investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund! Around jobs, we have secured agreements with Pepco, DC Water, and our public transit systems to increase the wages and benefits of thousands of frontline workers. Just last year, due to our organizing and demands, Pepco created a \$36 million capital fund to invest in Black and minority-owned businesses in under-resourced communities. WIN organizing has also led to renovations of numerous libraries, recreation centers, and schools all around DC.