



# Washington Teachers' Union

***Amplifying the Voice of DC Teachers***

*Elizabeth A. Davis, President*

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## **Candidates the Washington Teachers' Union has endorsed in the DC general election to be held November 6.**

**NOTE: The descriptions below come from each candidate's own website.**

### **Mayor: Muriel Bowser**

<https://www.murielbowser.com/> @Muriel Bowser



**Muriel Bowser** is a proud fifth generation Washingtonian. Having grown up in North Michigan Park, in the same house where you can still find her dad Joe watching over the neighborhood, Muriel has seen firsthand the many ways the city has changed over the last several decades. Whether by tagging along with her dad to some of the city's first ANC meetings and learning what community activism looks like or by watching her mom navigate the changing healthcare system throughout her nursing career, Muriel was raised to focus on what matters most – working together to build a better DC for us all.

### **Attorney General: Karl Racine**

<https://karlracine.com/> @KarlRacineDC



**Karl Racine** attended Murch Elementary School, Deal Junior High School, Wilson High School, and graduated from St. John's College High School. He also played basketball in youth sports leagues across the city. Attorney General Racine has a lifelong commitment to equal justice inspired by his parents, who fled authoritarian rule in Haiti to start a new life in the United States. As Attorney General, he has had three priorities: setting up the Office of Attorney General as a truly independent entity; reforming the Office's role with regard to juvenile justice to reduce recidivism; and setting up what has become an incredibly successful Consumer Protection Office.

## **Council Chair: Phil Mendelson**

<https://philmendelson.com/>

@VoteMendo



**Phil Mendelson** was first elected to the DC Council in November 1998 as an At-Large Councilmember. In June, 2012, following the resignation of the previous Council Chair, he was selected by his colleagues on the Council to serve as Chairman. In November, 2012 and 2014, District voters elected and then re-elected him as Council Chair. Prior to serving on the Council, Phil was an active tenant advocate and a member of the McLean Gardens Residents Association. He played a significant role in the effort to save the 43-acre housing complex from destruction. In 1978, Mendelson successfully ran for a seat on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC).

## **Councilmember Ward One: Brianne Nadeau**

<https://www.briannefordc.com/>

@BrianneKNadeau



**Brianne Nadeau** is the first woman (and mom) to represent Ward One. She is a member of the Housing Committee and works to ensure truly affordable housing. Furthermore, she actively promotes measures to provide each DC school with the resources it needs to allow students to thrive. She is dedicated to supporting the DC immigrant and LGBT communities. As chair of the Human Services Committee, Brianne is committed to securing millions of dollars to end homelessness for youth, single adults and families and has made landmark reforms in our public assistance program, Temporary Aid to Needy Families.

## **Councilmember Ward Three: Mary Cheh**

<https://www.marycheh2018.com/>

@marycheh



**Mary Cheh** chairs the Committee on Transportation and the Environment and is a member of the Judiciary and Health Committee. Her legislative focus has been on quality of life issues particularly in the areas of health, the environment, and education. She has passed many groundbreaking and model bills, among them the Healthy Schools Act and the Clean and Affordable Energy Act. She has provided the resources for the modernization of Ward 3 schools, libraries, firehouses, recreation centers, and parks. She is a lawyer and tenured full professor at George Washington Law School where she teaches Criminal Procedure and Constitutional Law.

## **Councilmember Ward Five: Kenyan McDuffie**

<https://kenyanmcduffie2018.com/> @KenyanForWard5



**Kenyan McDuffie** is a third generation native Washingtonian. His first opportunity to work as a public servant was as a prosecutor in the State's Attorney's office and then as a Civil Rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. As Ward 5's councilmember he has implemented an economic development plan that improved commercial corridors by increasing funding to new and existing businesses. He has also introduced legislation to create more affordable housing and reduce displacement. He has also sponsored bills to fund transportation, case management services and other resources for seniors.

## **Councilmember Ward Six: Charles Allen**

<http://www.charlesallenward6.com/> @CMCharlesAllen



**Charles Allen** was a graduate fellow with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and worked on expanding community-based health options across the nation. He began his service to the District as policy director for the DC Primary Care Association, where he helped bring about legislative, budgetary, and policy changes that expanded health care options for almost every DC resident. He helped found and was chair of DC for Democracy, a voice for progressive priorities and social justice issues facing the City. He later served as President of the Ward 6 Democrats and as chief of staff to Councilmember Tommy Wells. Allen was elected Ward 6 Councilmember in 2014.

## **At-large: Anita Bonds**

<https://anitabonds2018.com/> @AnitaBondsDC



**Anita Bonds** was elected to office in 2012. She says that she works to use revenues wisely to ensure that residents have (1) necessary services, (2) affordable housing opportunities, (3) sustainable employment, (4) neighborhood amenities, (5) quality performing schools and (6) transportation options, where no one is left behind or forced out of their community because of the rising economy.

## **At-large: Elissa Silverman**

<https://www.elissa2018.com/>

@tweetelissa



**Elissa Silverman** has regularly attended education related hearings, despite not being an official member of the Committee on Education. She has been very helpful to WTU members in preparing their testimony for hearings. Furthermore, she has consistently pushed for greater transparency and equity in the development of budgets for the District. In her role as the Chair of the Labor and Workforce Development committee, she has made education a top focus. She does not accept money from PACs or corporations, assuring that she remains unbought.

## **State Board of Education, Ward 1: Emily Gasoi**

<https://emily4education.com/>

@emilygasoi



**Emily Gasoi** is a parent, former teacher and co-founder of a democratically run school in Boston. She has an MA and a doctorate degree in Education Leadership. She co-wrote *These Schools Belong to You and Me: Why We Can't Afford to Abandon Our Public Schools* (2017) with Deborah Meier. Gasoi has supported WTU initiatives such as reducing the percentage that test scores can be used to evaluate schools as part of the ESSA Report Card. She is not beholden to corporate interests, understands the issues and will be a champion for neighborhood public schools, families and educators.

## **State Board of Education, Ward 3: Ruth Wattenberg**

<https://ruth4schools.com/>

@Ruth4Schools



**Ruth Wattenberg** has been a steadfast champion of public schools and has used her position on the Board to form coalitions and ask tough questions. She was one of 3 Board members to vote against the ESSA plan under which test scores counted as 70% of a school's rating. Her 2017 article with Marcus Batchelor in the *Washington City Paper* "A Memo to the D.C. Public Schools Chancellor" highlighted many of the issues that the WTU has repeatedly brought to light. She will make teacher turnover, pressure to lower academic standards to increase school metrics and at-risk funds some of her top priorities moving forward.

## **State Board of Education, Ward 5: Zachary Parker**

<https://www.votezacharyparker.com/>

@ZacharyforWard5



**Zachary E. Parker** has experience in education and currently works in schools through his job at Achievement Network. He has shown a willingness to listen to parents, teachers and community members, adding nuance to elements of his platform based on those discussions.

## **State Board of Education, Ward 6: Joe Weedon**

<https://www.joeweeton.com/>

@joeweeton



**Joe Weedon** has consistently supported causes championed by the WTU. Working closely with parents and schools he has tirelessly advocated for the Ward 6 community and schools all over the City. He serves on the Board's ESSA Taskforce and was one of the three Board members to vote against the ESSA plan that included such a high percentage of schools' evaluations to be based on PARCC scores.