

# WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR DC STATEHOOD CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

Anise Jenkins <standup\_freedom@yahoo.com>

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June 3, 2018

Dear Candidates:

The Question is Being Called! Candidates will win or lose depending on how voters evaluate their performance on and commitment to many important issues. Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC) wants voters to know how YOU stand on the issue of DC Statehood, for which 86% voted in the 2016 election.

Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC) was founded to advocate, educate, organize and mobilize to achieve DC Statehood and has been consistently doing so since 1997. Please complete this brief questionnaire which is being sent to all candidates participating in the 2018 primary so that we may know where you stand on the issue of DC Statehood considered so crucial to the quality of life, the very right to full citizenship for DC residents.

This questionnaire is very brief and we encourage you to go on the record. We will release the results of the questionnaire through our website, print, social media and news media.

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ANSWERS TO [standup\\_freedom@yahoo.com](mailto:standup_freedom@yahoo.com) ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018.**

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond.

***FREE DC! STATEHOOD NOW!***

Sincerely,

*Anise Jenkins*

Anise Jenkins

Executive Director

Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC)

202-232-2500

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## QUESTIONS and MY ANSWERS

**David Schwartzman, Candidate for DC Council At-Large, DC Statehood Green Party**

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1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being highest) how important do you think DC Statehood is and why?

**For the residents of DC: Statehood stands at scale 5, because it is the only way we will achieve real self-determination and self-government with equal status as residents living in the other 50 states consistent with the legacy of our history and struggle for human rights.**

2. Name 3 specific things you have done to improve the achievement of DC Statehood?

**I joined the struggle for DC Statehood by becoming a member of the DC Statehood Party (now Statehood Green) in 1976 when I moved into DC, and have advocated for this goal ever since.**

**On June 5, 2008 I testified on behalf of the DCSGP at the Town Hall Meeting with Mr. Doudou Diene, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, presenting our Petition for D.C. Statehood and Human Rights, with nearly 2000 signatures.**

**On July 13, 2009, I initiated and helped lead a delegation of prominent DC Statehood advocates in a meeting with Eleanor Holmes Norton, urging her to introduce a bill for DC Statehood, a goal achieved with the introduction of the New Columbia Admissions Act in the House. I was the Initiator and Co-editor of the Report on State of Human Rights in DC (American Friends Service Committee, <http://afsc.org/resource/report-state-human-rights-dc>) which assessed the human rights record of our local and federal governments since DC self-declared itself as a Human Rights City, on December 10, 2008, the first U.S. city to do so. I continue to serve on the Steering Committee of the DC Human Rights City Committee.**

**I submitted testimony on the New Columbia Admissions Act, S. 132 to the Senate on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 (<http://greenpapers.net/dc-statehood-now/>). Eugene Puryear and I initiated a National Call-in Day for DC Statehood on October 6, 2014, with a press conference in front of the White House. I have been active in lobbying for the New Columbia Admissions Act in Congress, having participated in several efforts in recent years.**

**On June 17, 2016, I testified to the so-called constitutional convention convened by the five member New Columbia Statehood Commission and again to the DC Council on September 27, 2016 (see attached testimony), urging the convening of a real elected delegated Constitutional Convention (see my attached educational pdf, widely distributed, on the assessment of this process and our current challenges).**

3. If elected, what are 3 specific things you will do to advance the DC Statehood Movement?

**1) I will continue to work for the establishment of a publicly owned and accountable**

**DC bank that would deposit District tax dollars, instead of Wall Street being the recipient, and in partnership with local financial institutions, promote jobs, sustainable local businesses and affordable housing, thereby establishing DC's sovereignty over its fiscal and monetary policies, an important step in preparation for DC Statehood. Note: I first raised this issue when I ran for DC Council At-Large in 2010, and have worked for this goal as a Steering Committee member since its beginning four years ago of the DC Public Banking Center (<https://www.dcpublicbanking.org/>).**

**2) Using the resources of my office, I will help create a grassroots mass movement of our own residents, supported with solidarity from our region, by first convening DC-wide Town Halls to bring together activists and residents to map out an action program.**

**3) Finally I will energize the more than 200,000 members of the Green Party of the United States which has long stood for DC Statehood, and Global Greens to support this program nationally and internationally, building the broadest coalition across political lines.**

4. Would you risk arrest in support of DC Statehood? Why or why not?

**Yes, willingly. I anticipate that mass civil disobedience will be an important component of a reenergized struggle for DC Statehood.**

5. Should the DC Statehood Delegation be paid for their work? Why or why not?

**Yes of course. The level of budgetary support for our Delegation is pathetically low and I have testified on numerous occasions to the DC Council in favor of paying our Delegation adequate salary and resources along with compensated staff.**

6. What do you rank as the most important aspect of a lack of DC Statehood and why?

- a. No voting representation in either House of the United States Congress;
- b. Congress' ability to veto or change our local budget;
- c. Congress' ability to veto or change our local laws;
- d. Our inability to appoint or elect our local judges.

**b, c and d first, followed closely by a. Self-government comes before voting representation, as important as full voting representation (2 Senators and one vote in the House) is.**