

#### WASHINGTON, DC 2022 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE



ELISSA SILVERMAN AT-LARGE



BRIANNE NADEAU WARD I







MATT FRUMIN WARD 3



Paid for by JUFJ Campaign Fund, PO Box 41485, Washington, DC 20018. Joe Sandler, Treasurer

## INTRODUCTION

The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund is a grassroots community organization that is working toward a DC where everyone has what they need to live and be well, where all our residents live in dignity and have a voice in democracy, and where our government focuses on the well-being of all residents and prioritizes eliminating racial and economic inequities. We endorse candidates aligned with this vision who are ready to win elected office and take bold leadership.

## **ENDORSEMENT CRITERIA**

In 2022, we updated our candidate endorsement criteria:

- The candidate's platform/incumbent's record is **closely aligned with our community's agenda** for social, racial, and economic justice.
- The candidate has a demonstrated commitment to **racial equity.**
- The candidate has demonstrated integrity as a core value.
- The candidate, their campaign, and our endorsement have the potential to change the public narrative and/or political landscape in ways that result in **concrete improvements in people's lives.**
- The endorsement of the candidate and the impact of their campaign have the potential to **build collective grassroots power.**

The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund makes our endorsement choices **in dialogue with key partners.** 

#### **ENDORSEMENT TEAM**

We are grateful to all of our Board members, volunteers, and staff who contributed to the endorsement process, giving generously of their time and insights, and to our partners who consulted with us throughout the process.

Alana Eichner	Ed Lazere
Jayme Epstein	Amy Lieber
Alix Gould-Werth	Lindsay Morris
Seth Johnson	Sarah Novick
Hilary Klein	Abel Nuñez

Desmond Serrette Daniel Solomon Michelle Sternthal Ericka Taylor

#### AT LARGE: ELISSA SILVERMAN



elissafordc.com

Councilmember Elissa Silverman stands out for her legislative achievements, her dedication to effective oversight of DC government, and her alignment with the JUFJ Campaign Fund's priorities.

She has been a champion of DC's groundbreaking paid family and medical leave law, playing a leading role in passing, defending, and strengthening the original law, as well as the recent expansion of benefits to 12 weeks.

Councilmember Silverman is one of only three Councilmembers to currently have a 100% score on our <u>DC Council Scorecard</u> (as of October 14, 2022), and she has introduced and fought for multiple workers' rights bills that will appear on the scorecard later this Council period, including legislation to protect the human rights of domestic workers like home health aides and nannies and a bill to defend the paid leave benefits of workers who are between jobs.

On housing security, Councilmember Silverman has been a leading voice for stronger oversight of DC's failing public housing system. She introduced emergency legislation to correct the rampant mismanagement found in a recent HUD report on the DC Housing Authority, and her record sharply distinguishes her from the other incumbent Councilmembers who are seeking At-Large seats.

Silverman has been endorsed by every labor union that has endorsed in this race, as well as by DC for Democracy, Greater Greater Washington, Our Revolution, and Attorney General Karl Racine.

#### On the other candidates:

Anita Bonds' record as a councilmember and Chair of the Council's Committee on Housing and Executive Administration shows that she does not align with JUFJ Campaign Fund's policy positions. She has not provided meaningful oversight over the District's housing agencies, moved forward advocates' demands for a stronger rent control program, or worked for a comprehensive solution to DC's housing crisis.

Kenyan McDuffie, the outgoing Ward 5 Councilmember who is running for an At-Large seat in this cycle, has a mixed record, with a score of 58% on our current scorecard and past scores ranging from 55% to 69%. His leadership on the Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH) Act helped move DC government towards considering racial equity impacts before taking actions. However, his positions on economic justice and housing security have frequently been at odds with the JUFJ Campaign Fund's positions, including his consistent opposition to raising taxes on the wealthiest residents to fund essential services and his support of a bill that would have weakened pandemic eviction protections for DC renters.

Our endorsement team was impressed with many of the answers provided by Karim Marshall on our candidate questionnaire. His positions frequently align with the positions of the JUFJ Campaign Fund, and in places where we do not align, he is clear on the specific reasons why. However, he did not demonstrate a clear path to victory in this crowded race against three incumbent Councilmembers.

Fred Hill's positions are not aligned with the JUFJ Campaign Fund's positions.

None of the remaining candidates responded to our endorsement questionnaire, nor did they have a legislative record to evaluate from previous experience in elected office.

# WARD I: BRIANNE NADEAU



briannefordc.com

**Councilmember Brianne Nadeau is a fierce leader on progressive issues and transparent government.** Nadeau is currently earning a 100% score on <u>our DC Council scorecard</u> (as of October 14, 2022). She has consistently shown a commitment to passing strong, effective legislation over her time on the DC Council. She has worked closely with the members of the community and advocates to ensure that legislation meets the most pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents.

During her first two terms, Councilmember Nadeau has been a champion for housing affordability and security. She fought on behalf of renters to oppose legislation that would have weakened tenant protections, making housing for individuals and families more unstable. This winter, she fought for the rights of unhoused District residents to stay in their encampment homes while awaiting permanent housing.

Councilmember Nadeau has repeatedly found ways to raise revenue for critical programs and services that benefit the District's poor and working class Black and brown communities, including people who are experiencing homelessness, children, and immigrants. In 2020, she was the lead architect of the budget amendment that cut back wasteful tax giveaways to thriving tech companies and redirected those funds to essential needs. In 2021, alongside Councilmembers Charles Allen and Janeese Lewis George, she coauthored the crucial tax increase on millionaires that boosted pay for essential early childhood educators and provided permanent supportive housing to thousands of DC families. Throughout the pandemic she has taken action on behalf of DC workers excluded from federal stimulus funds to help them secure local relief funds.

Councilmember Nadeau's leadership has directly resulted in positive change in the city and especially in her ward. We endorsed Councilmember Nadeau in 2014 and 2018, and are confident she will continue to meet the needs of Ward 1 residents – and residents across the District – in her next term.

#### WARD 3: MATT FRUMIN



fruminforward3.com

Matt Frumin is a passionate advocate for public education and DC's seniors with deep relationships in Ward 3. He understands that Ward 3 does better when the whole city does better. His nearly two decades of advocacy experience, commitment to supporting the District's most marginalized residents, and actionoriented approach will make him an important ally on the Council.

Frumin helped secure critical funding for moderate and deeply af-

fordable apartments in his previous role as Board Chair of the Lisner Home. As Ward 3 councilmember, he will support expanding renter's rights, giving domestic workers legal protection in their workplaces, and creating one fair wage for DC's tipped workers. Frumin plans to approach policy issues through the prism of racial equity. While our views on public safety do not align perfectly, we look forward to working together to further develop a better approach to racial justice issues.

Councilmember Cheh removed herself from the race late in the cycle and created an unexpected open contest. Despite this dynamic, Frumin developed a strong and noticeable campaign in a short time to win the primary election, and we're excited to continue to support him in the general election.

## WARD 5: ZACHARY PARKER



zacharyforward5.com

#### Zachary Parker is the bold leader Ward 5 deserves. As

Ward 5 councilmember, he will work tirelessly toward his vision for DC: that all residents be able to live and thrive. Through a racial equity lens, with social justice values and thanks to his significant policy knowledge, Parker will be well-positioned to fight for transformative change in Ward 5 and across the District.

The JUFJ Campaign Fund endorsed Parker for his successful run as Ward 5 member of the DC State Board of

Education (SBOE) in 2018. As Ward 5 member and then President of the SBOE, Parker has been a champion for equity and accountability in our public schools, including leading an effort to support fully funding early childhood education and care, demanding fair pay for substitute teachers, speaking out for COVID-19 safety, and calling for an end to biased school rating systems.

He has also shown a deep commitment to meaningfully engage and work with community members, as well as work collaboratively with his colleagues. As a councilmember, Parker plans to create permanently and deeply affordable housing to protect residents from being pushed out of their neighborhoods. He is also in favor of addressing root causes of violence, de-centering police in our approach to public safety, and building up healthy communities.

Zachary Parker is committed to bringing government to the people, and we are confident he will bring an inclusive, effective policy agenda to the Council.

#### WARD 6: CHARLES ALLEN



charlesallen2022.com

Councilmember Charles Allen knows how to bring together a Council coalition that can pass bills and budget measures with a clear majority. In his time on the Council, Allen has proven that he is a hard worker and a powerful force in enacting progressive policies that put everyday people before powerful business interests.

Councilmember Allen led a two year effort to raise taxes on DC's wealthiest residents and co-authored the successful 2021 effort to invest that

new revenue in early childhood care, housing vouchers, and the District's first-ever minimum basic income for working families. He also supported additional efforts to cut back wasteful tax giveaways to big companies, and has been a reliable supporter of paid family and medical leave for DC's working families throughout his time on the Council.

In his role as Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, Councilmember Allen shepherded through justice-oriented changes to policing and public safety that the police union and others fiercely opposed. He also created the District's Fair Elections program to publicly finance local political campaigns, which has transformed the way candidates run for office, empowering more diverse candidates to run and win races, and elevating the voices and donations of ordinary DC residents over deeppocketed special interests in our city.

The JUFJ Campaign Fund endorsed Councilmember Allen in 2014 and 2018, and he received an 85% on our <u>most recent scorecard</u>. While Allen and the Campaign Fund are frequently aligned, his recent support for Mayor Bowser's efforts to clear encampments of unhoused residents before they were given access to permanent housing has been a key area of disagreement with the JUFJ Campaign Fund. Even in moments of disagreement, Councilmember Allen cares about what the JUFJ Campaign Fund says and takes our concerns seriously.

## YES ON 82: ONE FAIR WAGE



betterrestaurantsdc.org

Ending the "tipped wage" is a key step to ensuring that everyone who works can earn a decent living and sustain their families. If you want people who work for tips to earn more and be harassed and exploited less, vote YES on 82.

Initiative 82 is the second iteration of Initiative 77, which the JUFJ Campaign Fund endorsed in 2018. In that election, DC voters showed undeniable support for one fair wage for workers, and I77 passed. Unfortunately a majority of the

DC Council overturned the will of the people, and we need 182 to make one fair wage with tips on top a reality for DC workers. Like 177, 182 would gradually raise the tipped minimum wage, currently \$5.05/ hour, to match the standard minimum wage, currently \$15.20/hour, by 2027. Technically employers are required to "top off" tipped staff when tips fall short of the standard minimum wage, but there is no effective method of enforcement.

Initiative 82 was created by the DC Committee to Build a Better Restaurant Industry. The opposition to I82 is funded and driven by the wealthy local and national restaurant industry lobby. Their efforts have misled voters, owners, and tipped workers, claiming that one fair and equal wage with tips on top will make customers stop tipping, drive up the cost of going out, and ultimately force restaurants and bars to close.

But seven states, including California, already have one equal wage with tips on top, and copious data show that one fair wage actually positively impacted their hospitality industries. Servers in states with one fair wage did not lose their tips, but started making more money, and that added stability is key to retaining employees as we move into the third year of the pandemic. The same lobbyists claimed the sky would fall and businesses would flee when DC banned smoking in restaurants, expanded sick leave to restaurant workers, and created paid family leave. We know better than to believe them. Tipped workers in DC are significantly more likely to experience harassment and wage theft, and less likely to report it. The usual stressors of the job and the increased risk of working in person during the pandemic has caused thousands of service workers to leave the hospitality industry in search of safer and more stable jobs. Initiative 82 will not prevent harassment, but if DC truly wants a just recovery from the pandemic where everyone has the resources to survive, service workers need one fair wage with tips on top.

Initiative 82 will also increase wages for nail salon employees, parking attendants, bellhops, etc. Service jobs are an essential part of our economy, and we need to make sure that every job can be a good job.

For more information, visit betterrestaurantsdc.org.

## **VOTING BY MAIL OR DROP BOX**

You should have received a mail-in ballot sent directly to you by the Board of Elections. You may mail it in, or drop it in a ballot drop box starting Friday, October 14 and running through 8:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Ballot drop boxes are located in all eight wards, and you can <u>click here</u> to find a drop box location near you.

#### **EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING**

If you plan to vote in person, you may vote at **ANY EARLY VOTE CENTER IN ANY WARD** from Monday, October 31 through Sunday, November 6, 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM. <u>Click here to find an Early</u> <u>Vote Center near you.</u>

## **ELECTION DAY IN-PERSON VOTING**

On Election Day — Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM — you may vote at **ANY ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTER IN ANY WARD**. Click here to find an Election Day Vote Center near you.

# JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FUND

THINK JEWISHLY. VOTE LOCALLY.