



**Ward 7 Councilmember Candidate
Questionnaire**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the 2024 Ward 7 Democrats Candidate Forum for candidates in the Democratic Primary for the **Ward 7 Council seat**. Below is a pre-Forum questionnaire that will give you the opportunity to expand on your position and goals in depth and afford our membership the opportunity to truly understand your positions.

Please respond no later than **11:59pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Timely completion and submission of this questionnaire is a prerequisite to participate in the Candidate Forum.**

Candidate Information

Your responses will be posted on the Ward 7 Dems webpage. Please provide a headshot of the candidate.

Candidate Name:

Ebbon Allen

Current Neighborhood:

Marshall Heights

Candidate website:

Ebbonfor7.com

Candidate Twitter:

@ebbonfor7

Candidate IG:

**@mr.eallen
@ebbonfor7**

Candidate Facebook:

Other social media:

General Questions

1. What makes you the right selection for the Democratic nomination for Ward 7 Councilmember?

I consider myself a son of Ward 7. I was raised in the Marshall Heights and Civic Betterment communities. I was a former ANC Commissioner for 4 years in Marshall Heights. I was also the ANC 7E Chairman for one term. I am the only candidate that

was once Chair of the ANC Public Safety Committee. On a personal note, I lost my only brother as well as friendships with three young men from the Benning Park community to gun violence. So not only am I personally and civically invested in providing solutions the Ward 7's public safety concerns. While serving on the ANC 7E Public Safety Committee, I hosted two *ANC 7E Public Safety Day* events. I am also invested in the economic development of Ward 7. For example, I brought the Woody Ward Rec Center to Benning Park, as well as 15 new townhomes to the Marshall Heights community. In the area of education, I initiated the *Black Kings That Read* literacy program to CW Harris Elementary School, which provides a platform for Black men from the Washington DC Metropolitan area to read to over 150 1st graders – an image that has profound and lasting effects on our youth. As a proud Morehouse graduate, I developed and implemented *Morehouse Day* within seven DC Public Schools, including two Ward 7 schools - Kelly Miller Middle School and Ron Brown High School. This program has since expanded to Eastern and HG Woodson High Schools. This program allows Morehouse graduates to speak to hundreds of young men in Washington, DC every year. Within this program topics on conflict resolution, entrepreneurship, and applying for scholarships are discussed and expounded upon. Most importantly, I am the proud husband of my beautiful wife, and proud father of three sons who are thriving in Ward 7. My comprehensive experience has shaped my vision for Ward 7 to turn it into a vibrant, bustling, and safe community.

2. How would you build relationships with the Council, Mayor, and Ward 7 Candidates who were unsuccessful in their bid to ensure that the needs of Ward 7 residents are met?
I would first research the overarching strategies and goals of each councilmember for their respective Wards and analyze where there is alignment. Then, I would foster relationships with each councilperson to seek partnership opportunities on legislation and policies that make DC the best city in the world. I would also maintain this approach with leadership within DC's agencies. I would introduce monthly meetings with the councilmen, meet with ANC commissioners, civic association leaders, as well as meet with ambassadors from the Ward 7 Youth Advisory Board, the Ward 7 Small Business Advisory Board, and other key Ward 7 stakeholders. This will ensure I have my finger on the pulse of Ward 7 so that I can meet the needs of the residents.

Education

In recent years, Ward 7 has faced significant challenges in public education, including disparities in academic achievement, access to resources, and support for special education. If elected to the Ward 7 Council seat, what specific measures will you implement to address these educational disparities and ensure that all children in Ward 7 have equitable access to high-quality education and support services?

Ward 7 families deserve equity in education. I would advocate for more funding for high quality education for our Ward 7 students. I would propose more funding for Parent/Teacher Associations (PTA) for every school in Ward 7. We must support our parents in Ward 7 as they instill the value of education and how to create a quality of life that will enable them to thrive. I would also propose bringing a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math)-focused middle school to Ward 7. Currently, DC has only one performing arts school - Duke Ellington, located in Ward 2. At this point, Ward 7 does not offer any schools that

provide middle schoolers training in career pathways, engineering, entrepreneurship, and music; nor profitable trades such as barbering, coding, hospitality, tourism, and cosmetology. I would also extend DPR hours to 12 midnight (currently at 8 PM).

Economic Development

In light of the current economic landscape in Ward 7, as Ward 7 Councilmember, what innovative measures would you propose to bolster economic development in Ward 7?

Let's begin with the Park at Fletcher Johnson. I am a proud alum of Fletcher Johnson and am currently on the Fletcher Johnson taskforce. I also championed preserving the name of Fletcher Johnson for over the last 7 – 8 years. Fletcher Johnson should not only serve the communities with housing but should also provide healthcare services, grocery store options, a dine-in restaurant, and retail shops. Fletcher Johnson should also offer the amenities similar to those offered at Skyland shopping center. Ward 7 deserves high quality grocery stores and, as councilman, I will work hard to make it a reality.

Housing

In October of 2023, the agencies that fund HPAP (the District's Primary First-time homebuyers' program), revised their distribution requirements to be based on a "first come first serve basis." By January of 2024, all funds were exhausted. This development shook lenders, Realtors, and especially, first time home buyers. As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve homeownership opportunities for individuals and families who would like to make our Ward their home?

Ward 7 should offer constituents homeownership courses, financial literacy courses and support-driven organizations, such as Marshall Heights Community Development. I would also encourage developers to offer more workshops and incentives for first-time home buyers within our Ward 7 communities. I would support more small businesses by welcoming grassroots organizations that offer educational symposiums at our community recreational centers.

Public Safety

Ward 7 and the entire city is experiencing an increase in crime. What would you identify as the core causes of this spike and what legislative tools would you suggest that could stop the increase and address the root causes?

DC and Ward 7 have been plagued with gun violence over the last three decades. In the 80s and 90s, DC was the murder capital where victims of homicide numbered more than 400 every year. We are now burying our sons and daughters due to gun violence at an even more alarming rate. Ward 7 is plagued with generational neighborhood feuds. We need to address this public safety crisis as a public health crisis. We must work with our community schools, violence interrupter organizations, the Department of Employment Services and Department of Behavioral Health to slow down this crime that has neighbors feeling like prisoners in their homes. We must address chronic truancy rates that are rising among our youth. I would propose and advocate for Violence Interrupter and DBH programs to serve elementary and middle school scholars, as well as programs such as "Cure The Streets" in our Ward 7 middle schools to mediate conflicts between rival neighborhoods. Also, recreational centers should provide midnight youth leagues and workshops to provide

incentives for our youth to feel safe again.

Transportation

What do you see as the biggest transportation needs facing Ward 7 residents? As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve the transportation infrastructure in Ward 7.

We must provide safe passages for our youth, not only in Ward 7 but also in order to commute west of the river to obtain a quality education. Also, I do not support the city using tax dollars for streetcars. The city must support the Metro Transit budget and prevent the closure of nine metro stations, which is sure to have a negative impact on those who rely on public transportation. Also, Metro should provide additional transit officers to ride on and monitor activities on buses and trains throughout Ward 7. In addition, Metro should provide incentives to educators and administrators to ride for free or at a discounted rate.

Health & Human Services

What are the biggest health and human services challenges that you see facing Ward 7 residents? As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve health outcomes of Ward 7 residents?

Ward 7 deserves a state-of-the-art hospital, similar to what is available in Ward 8. Our constituents do not deserve to feel that their healthcare needs have been ignored, nor should they have to travel to Prince George's County or Howard University hospital for care. The Parks at Fletcher Johnson should provide a health clinic. The clinic should have a maternal wing for mothers within Ward 7, as well as a trauma wing. Capitol Hill/Kingman Park communities are also viable options for building a healthcare campus.