

**Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the 2022 Ward 7 Democrats Candidate Forum for candidates in the Democratic Primary for the **Mayor**. 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 Friday, February 22, 2022. **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 also provide a headshot of the candidate.

Candidate Name: Elder Rev. Leland Core

Candidate website: [www.core4dcmayor.com](http://www.core4dcmayor.com)

Candidate Twitter: core4dcmayor
Candidate Instagram:core4dcmayor

Candidate Facebook: core4dcmayor

Any other social media:

General Questions

1. What makes you the right selection for the Democratic nomination for Mayor?

The last 15 years as a Vice President, spending more than 30 years, my focused have been geared around fixing broken technical, engineering and financial operations, outside of my corporate experience; I’m highly passionate about promoting other people’s welfare and helping them become the best versions of themselves. As a Certified Life Strategies Coach, Certified Mental Health Coach and 20 year practicing NLP Practitioner I use these skills to develop myself to help others. I live by this creed ‘People don’t care what you know until they know you care”

1. As Mayor, what steps would you take to ensure that you are able to meet the needs of the residents of Ward 7?

I believe to truly fix Ward 7, we must have a scheduled meetings to discuss and look for resolutions; then align and action/move forward towards the agenda at hand, it takes two way communication and involvement.

1. How would you better connect with communities that have lost faith in the ability of the government to solve problems?

This is one of my reasons for running, my theme is “Rebuilding a New Washington, DC for Everyone” one of my pillar is Transparency, we must be who we stay we are and do what we say… I believe my interactions and communications with the resident will restore hope in the people.

Education

1. Do you believe the per pupil formula is adequate? If so, why? If not, how would you modify the per pupil formula to ensure that all schools are sufficiently funded and facilitate equitable outcomes in communities in Ward 7 and Ward 8?

Another pillar is Education under my plan; I do not believe the funding have been properly administered across those Wards for over 2 decades, the end results shows there is a problem; Just in conversations I’ve had with Ward 7 residents about their concerns; we need to reallocated and bridge the gaps. It’s important to me we make Ward 7 & 8 great.

1. What programs would you advance to improve the ability of the District to recruit and retain quality teachers?

I’ve recruited executives from all over the country, we must take in account having the proper relocation package(s). In addition, be supportive to those coming from other area(s) and/or states. I’ve lived all over the country in my career and do understand the importance of properly retaining people. The important factor of recruiting, making sure you do the proper work up front and then be transparent with people about the challenges, bigger factor is making the District save and affordable.

1. Is Mayoral control of DCPS still the right approach to improving educational outcomes in underinvested communities? If so, why and upon what data do you rely to support this position? If not, what is the alternative and upon what data do you rely to support this position?

The poverty rate in certain section is totally alarming, we’ve let so many down, As a functional Vice President in corporate America, I had full financial responsibilities, I believe it’s critical to have involvement from all leaders responsible, which drives the proper accountability and/or communication. In addition, the hands off approach does not work, but getting all involved from a Master Mind perceptive is key to driving the desired results.

1. How could the Public Charter School System be improved?

I would result to meeting with the leadership of the school system, review their results and how they are measuring perform and then talk about improvements, as a Six Sigma green belt, I spent time reviewing processes and driving improvements… “the why and how”.. my approach is simple, we all should be career minded to making our children great and feel great about themselves, if we don’t do that we all have failed.

1. Are there any educational intervention programs you believe should be enhanced or expanded? Are there any that should be curtailed or terminated?

This continues from question four, incorporating a Master Mind meeting would revive this matter, we must change our leadership approach(es) to drive the challenge and/or direction to achieve a positive outcome.

Economic Development and Housing

1. Please outline your economic development strategy for Ward 7. How does your plan ensure that all residents at all income-levels will benefit from your strategy? What are the safeguards to ensure that your plan is truly equitable and inclusive for all Ward 7 residents?

Underserved communities generally have some of the lowest educated, we must take a wide, deep and board approach, work to first help them find their purpose and then deposit hope back into them. Which will allow effective training and educationally programs to work.

Additional, I have a manufacturing engineering background, we can bring jobs into these areas where building have been used for other things other than developing our people.

1. Ward 7 hosts a disproportionately high percentage of vacant and dilapidated buildings and vacant lots. How would you address this issue without inadvertently depriving middle income families of a rare asset?

To answer the question, truly start in question 1, we can stop building apartments with inflated rent rates, and deposit hope and skills into our people. Utilize, these non-revenue generating places to building trades schools and facilities for after care.

1. What are the three biggest challenges facing economic development in Ward 7? What is your strategy to eliminate/reduce these challenges to encourage an increase in economic development activity in the Ward? How do you plan to incorporate the Ward’s new boundaries into your economic development strategy?

I believe question 1 & 2 walks in alignment, chatting with the people also, to make sure we are meeting their development needs, its imperative to have their involvement and buy-in.. without it, we will not be successful resolving the current issues and trend lines.

1. Ward 7 has several business nodes: Minnesota and Benning Rd, Pennsylvania Ave to

Southern Avenue, Benning Rd, and East Capitol Street, etc. How do you plan the to

maximize the potential of these nodes for the greatest community economic impact?

Every ethnic group have a part of the city they call their own… we need to pick a place that will cultivate people of color. I don’t believe the current lay of the lands have been fair, we must have a positive change and/or restoring of care in our neighborhoods.

1. The DC Housing Authority and its Board faced significant challenges in 2021. What changes, if any, are needed to sustain and increase affordable and public housing in DC? Are there any decisions on the allocation of affordable units that deserve closer scrutiny or to be revisited?

We must stop the current train, the rate of housing have not aligned with the trend line of inflation nor the rent and/or housing rate, we need to take a hard look at what have taken place and resolve this matter, which must involve DC Housing to ensure all guidelines have been met under the current and/or future guidelines.

Transportation

1. Ward 7 residents and many residents east of the Anacostia River complain about inconsistent access to public transportation. These conditions have been intensified by WMATA’s reduced service schedule over the last two years. How would you improve access to transportation for underserved communities during the pandemic? What steps would you take under normal circumstances to improve transportation equity?

To fully resolve this issue, we must meet with WMATA’s leadership, I believe safety is a growing concern, which could be creating some of this matter. Most importantly, we must sit down with the leadership of transportation and get their input to derive a solution.

1. What is your position on the potential expansion of the DC Streetcar along Benning Road? If you believe it is a net positive initiative, please explain the potential benefits. If you believe it is a net negative, please describe the potential risks.

I’m going to be transparent about this matter, I believe the funds that will be spent in the potential expansion should be utilized in the people, we have a major development issue in the city when it come to the most important thing… our people, we continue to build building and tear down our people.

Public Safety

1. The District of Columbia is experiencing a general decline in crime, but a spike in murder. What would you identify as the core causes of this spike and what programmatic tools would you advance that could stop the increase and address the root causes?

I’ve studied the crime in DC, the residents do not feel like the crime have been reduced, and honestly when you look at what was reduced, I understand… because gun fire and murder continues to be out of control, people feel like they are prisoners of their home, this is an area I’ve been focused on over the past year, we have our 2nd annual Ride of Peace coming. Here’s my formula…

My current team and myself have stopped 4 major issues that where brewing, we must get the men involved, claim their kid and/or family members. Listen to the young and build things that will invoke unity. Currently, the city do not have the proper programs and the youth have lost respect.

1. What programs would you create or modify to reduce recidivism and reintegrate Returning Citizens into our communities?

I spent 10 years teaching, preaching and developing people in maximum security while I was a Associate Pastor of Prison Ministry, prior to Mayor Barry leaving this earth, I testified before him and the DC City Council and explained what needs to be done.

Correction starts they day they are sentenced, the challenge we have in the District, people are scattered in different facilities, our programs must reach them at their current location, I’m currently working with gentlemen locked up in Georgia from Washington, DC and that’s just plain owe tough.

Jobs and Employment

1. What programs or initiatives would you create or modify to increase the percentage of District employees that reside in the District of Columbia?

We must a few things in the District which will draw people back, housing cost, safe street, and improve the drivability and accident rates. People are leaving because they can get more for less… we need to had true and real value into the city.

1. The unemployment rate in Ward 7 is 14%. What programmatic tools would you create or modify to improve the ability of the District to return these residents to the workforce?

To make a 50 – 60% reduction in unemployment, this must be a two-fold approach, if you are going to utilize programs, the programs must be geared towards cleaning up their mind and changing their thinking, I’ve worked behind the scene in several of the current programs. We are not investing enough because of their current conditions.

Example it would be better to conduct 4 classes a year than 6 to reduce this cycle that continues to plaque the tow worst Wards in the city

In closing the last my 4 pillars (Economics – Transparency – Health – Education)

“Rebuilding a New Washington, DC for Everyone” will cover the city and its needs