

# Mayoral Food Questionnaire

In 2026 food organizations local to the District convened to elevate food issues in the Mayoral election.

The [DC Food Forum](#) exists to ensure candidates engage deeply with the realities of food access, equity, and sustainability in DC. We seek to elevate the voices and lived experiences of residents, surface the root causes of food inequities, and secure clear commitments to addressing them. Through a united, nonpartisan coalition, we aim to make candidate priorities transparent and advance accountability for a more just food system.

Partners:

- Dreaming Out Loud
- DC Green Scheme
- DC Jail Food Working Group
- DC Hunger Solutions
- FRESHFARM
- DC Greens
- DC Good Food Purchasing Program

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Candidate Name \*

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## Food Access & Retail

The Nourish DC and Food Access Fund programs distributed \$23 million to food retail in Wards 5, 7, and 8, but FY2026 is the last year of federal funding. Do you commit to funding these programs to sustain food retail in low-access areas?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Existing District incentives have not yet addressed the grocery gap in Wards 7 & 8 east of the river. How would you expand and sustain full-service food retail in these communities? What concrete commitments will you make to ensure that community-rooted groups—like our Ward 7 and 8 [Community Advisory Board](#)—have real authority and influence in shaping the District’s food and health equity agenda?

I will make grocery access east of the river a mayoral priority. That means using District land, tax incentives, financing, expedited permitting, infrastructure support, and public-private partnerships to recruit and sustain full-service grocery stores.

I will also support smaller community-rooted models: cooperatives, fresh food markets, corner store conversions, food hubs, mobile markets, and locally owned retailers. The Ward 7 and 8 Community Advisory Board must have real influence, including formal review of major food access investments, public reporting, and a seat at the table before decisions are made.

## Federal Food Benefits & the Safety Net

Would you guarantee a multi-year commitment to DC's participation in SUN Bucks, ensuring SNAP- and Medicaid-eligible families can access federal funds for groceries during the summer?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal changes through H.R. 1 will expose approximately 140,000 DC SNAP clients to new work requirements and time limits for the first time in over 27 years, shift significant administrative and benefit costs to the District, and cut eligibility for asylum seekers and refugees. DC food prices have also [risen 4%](#) over the past year. How would you protect DC residents' access to food benefits, and how would you use the District's local supplement authority to address gaps in federal coverage?

I will protect residents by maintaining DC's participation in federal nutrition programs, funding strong case management, improving SNAP recertification systems, and using local supplement authority where federal coverage is reduced.

Where federal policy creates gaps for children, seniors, working families, asylum seekers, refugees, and residents facing work requirements, DC must respond with targeted local support. Food insecurity is more expensive when ignored because it shows up later in healthcare, schools, public safety, and homelessness.

### **Institutional Food — Schools & Agencies**

Do you support expanding Universal School Meals — covering breakfast and lunch at no cost — to all DC schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, including public, charter, and private schools?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Secure DC Act directed the Department of Corrections to improve nutrition standards and create workforce opportunities around food, but implementation has gone nowhere due to lack of funding. Do you commit to funding these reforms?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

From school cafeterias to jails to homeless shelters to DC agencies, the District serves food to thousands of residents every day. How would you raise the quality and nutritional standards of that food, expand the [Good Food Purchasing Program](#) to all DC agencies, and ensure that public food dollars support both local businesses and community values?

My administration will set clear nutrition standards across schools, shelters, correctional facilities, senior programs, and District agencies. I will expand the Good Food Purchasing Program, strengthen contract oversight, require taste and quality reviews, and prioritize local businesses, CBEs, returning citizens, and community-based food providers.

Public food dollars should purchase healthy meals, support local jobs, reduce waste, and reflect DC values.

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## Food, Health & Community

DC's urban farms serve as both critical food sources and community gathering spaces. Do you commit to robust support for urban agriculture, including working directly with growers to reduce the regulatory barriers that make it difficult to sell food locally and regionally?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Fresh produce and food access are increasingly recognized as clinical interventions that reduce health disparities. How would you embed "Food is Medicine" programs into DC's budget and healthcare systems, and what steps would you take to ensure that a resident's health is no longer largely determined by their race or zip code?

Food is Medicine should be part of DC's healthcare strategy. I will work with hospitals, Medicaid managed care organizations, clinics, nonprofits, and food providers to expand produce prescriptions, medically tailored meals, nutrition education, and food delivery for residents with chronic conditions.

Health outcomes should not be determined by race, income, or zip code. We will measure reductions in diabetes, hypertension, food insecurity, and preventable hospital visits.

## Composting & Food Waste

Do you commit to expanding residential curbside composting to all DC households, including multifamily buildings, and requiring District agencies that serve food to compost their organics?

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What timeline would you set for expanding composting to multifamily homes:

Begin phased expansion in Year One, with citywide multifamily implementation by the end of the first term.

What timeline would you set for expanding composting to food businesses:

Phase in requirements beginning in Year Two, with technical assistance first and enforcement after businesses have a fair transition period.

What timeline would you set for expanding composting to DC agencies:

Begin in Year One with agencies serving food, including schools, shelters, recreation centers, and correctional facilities.

**Your Food Vision for DC**

The Mayor's Proposed FY27 budget cuts the Food Policy team. If elected would you continue to invest in our city's food needs by supporting this work in the budget and the Food Policy Council?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

In your first year in office, will you personally taste-test food served at DC agencies — including schools, shelters, and the Department of Corrections?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you commit to holding a roundtable with this coalition before taking office to discuss resident-driven priorities around food access, nutrition, and food systems?

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What food-related priorities — not covered above — would define your administration, and what would you want DC's food system to look like by the end of your term?

My food vision is simple: every resident should have access to affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate food in every ward.

By the end of my term, DC should have more grocery options east of the river, stronger local food businesses, universal school meals, better institutional food, expanded urban agriculture, Food is Medicine programs embedded in healthcare, and a citywide composting system that reduces waste and creates green jobs.

Food policy will not be treated as charity. It will be treated as infrastructure, health equity, economic development, and measured outcomes.

Is there anything you would like to expand upon?

As Mayor, I will bring fiscal discipline and executive experience to food policy. We will fund what works, measure results, and align public dollars with public values. DC's food system should feed people, support local businesses, improve health, reduce waste, and build stronger neighborhoods.

This form was created inside of Max Broad.

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