

Do you favor surplusing the available air rights of the Civic Core site that have not and never will be needed for the public facilities (the new library, community center, revitalized open spaces, and parking) so that it can be used for housing consistent with the [Chevy Chase Small Area Plan](#) and zoning regulations?

Favoring the surplus means being accountable for its use in the public interest. I support using the surplus air rights at the Civic Core site consistent with the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan and existing zoning regulations. Many redeveloped libraries and community centers are one- to two-story buildings that quickly become overcrowded, diminishing programming. We have an opportunity to build to capacity.

Chevy Chase can be at the forefront of neighborhoods that design and deploy mixed development of public facilities that adequately meet the needs of the neighborhood and new growth. Ward 3 and Ward 4 need more affordable housing opportunities for teachers, first responders, and families can afford to live in the communities they serve. I support zoning relief with the inclusion of workforce housing so that individuals who work in the community have a genuine opportunity to live there as well.

Public land and the surrounding Chevy Chase small plan area present a unique opportunity to optimize our land use. It is one of the factors that helps schools perform at a high level. As an educator, I have worked alongside talented teachers and staff members who dedicated themselves to serving students in Ward 3 schools but could never realistically afford to live anywhere near the communities they served. That disconnect weakens our sense of community and limits economic diversity across the city.

We can build an ambitious project that thoughtfully maintains the character and quality of the neighborhood.

Given the ten-year process of planning and community engagement that has taken place (described in detail on our [website](#)), do you support acting to move this project forward expeditiously if you are elected?

Given the ten-year process, the project could continue while continuing meaningful public engagement. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us that there is a “fierce urgency of now.” Washington, DC is facing a housing affordability crisis that requires urgency, courage, and leadership. We cannot continue delaying opportunities to create affordable and workforce housing in high-opportunity neighborhoods while families, seniors, educators, and working residents are being priced out of the city.

As a former principal, I understand the importance of building consensus, and excessive delay often comes at a cost to the very people who need opportunity the most. We should continue refining the project collaboratively while moving forward with the urgency that the housing crisis demands.

Leadership requires the ability to move from discussion to action. I believe this project represents a generational opportunity to create mixed-income housing alongside modernized public amenities, including a library, community center, and enhanced public space. Projects must manage project risk, including for permitting. DC's permitting delays mean that moving on time may feel fast. That is not a reason to slow down. It is a reason to fix permitting, and I will. Permitting should not be an administrative burden to the development of our city.

Let us not confuse risk with proper oversight. Moving quickly does not mean moving carelessly; I will work with colleagues on the Council to address those issues to benefit everyone through my idea of Government-as-a-Service. An independent Attorney General and I can work in tandem to provide oversight so that no matter how fast the project moves, we are always fighting waste, fraud, and abuse.

I am prepared to move a project expeditiously if it guarantees public amenities that meet the needs of existing development and new growth, providing affordable housing in plan and implementation.

Do you support the mix and amount of affordable housing that the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development's selected vendor, Risk Valley, originally proposed — one-third deeply affordable housing (30% to 50% MFI), one-third workforce housing (80% MFI), and one-third market-rate housing based on a total of 209 units? If not, what amount and degree of affordable housing do you support at the site?

Yes, this approach creates the strongest opportunity to build authentic communities. The proposed mix of deeply affordable, workforce, and market-rate units is the right framework because it serves the full range of residents this community needs. However, we must be deliberate about translating this framework into genuine opportunity for DC's working families.

Growing up in Washington, DC, my teachers, police officers, coaches, and even medical professionals often lived in the neighborhoods they served. That mattered. It created stronger relationships and a deeper sense of trust and cohesion within the community. My grandparents knew my teachers. Adults looked out for neighborhood children. Community members understood one another because they shared space and shared experiences.

Today, too many working families, educators, public servants, and young professionals are priced out of the very communities they help sustain. Workforce housing helps restore the possibility that people who contribute to a neighborhood can also live there.

I also appreciate that this proposal includes deeply affordable housing because economic diversity strengthens communities and expands opportunity. At the same time, market-rate housing helps create a financially sustainable mixed-income model.

That said, housing alone does not automatically create community. Construction is only the first step. Intentional community-building must happen alongside development. Residents must have opportunities to come together through shared spaces, neighborhood events, civic engagement, and

relationships that help people value one another's lived experiences.
Community is not simply a building or a development plan. Community is built
by people who choose to care for, learn from, and invest in one another.

Would you support a change to the draft [Future Land Use Map](#) from the current proposed “Small Scale Residential Neighborhood” in Chevy Chase to permit multi-family units to be built so long as they are consistent with the overall look and feel of the neighborhood (e.g., through the use of form-based codes)?

Yes, I would support thoughtful updates to the Future Land Use Map that allow for additional multifamily housing opportunities in Chevy Chase, provided that new development remains consistent with the overall character, scale, and feel of the neighborhood.

Washington, DC is growing, and we must create more housing opportunities in every part of the city if we are serious about affordability, workforce stability, and long-term economic sustainability. That includes neighborhoods west of the park that have historically had fewer multifamily housing options and less economic diversity.

At the same time, I understand the importance of preserving the qualities that make neighborhoods feel welcoming, connected, walkable, and livable. I believe form-based approaches can help strike that balance by allowing growth while ensuring that new buildings fit thoughtfully within the existing community through appropriate design, height, green space, and architectural standards.

My approach to development is not about overdevelopment. It is about intentional growth that expands opportunity while strengthening community. I believe Washington, DC can create more housing choices for teachers, seniors, young families, essential workers, and longtime residents without losing the character that people value about their neighborhoods.

Ultimately, the question is whether we are willing to create communities where people from different backgrounds and income levels can live, learn, work, and grow together. I believe we should.