

VOTER'S GUIDE



THE
WARD 8
DEMOCRATS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**BIENNIAL
CONVENTION**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.





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LETTER OF GREETING



Ward 8 Democrats 2021 Biennial Convention
Our Priorities, Our People, Our Power

September 18, 2021

Hello Democrats,

We are excited to welcome you to the 2021 Ward 8 Democrats Biennial Convention. On the heels of a monumental election and unprecedented protests in our streets and with an eye toward addressing big challenges with bold solutions, this year's gathering of Ward 8 Democrats could not be more important.

The consequences of decisions made locally and nationally in the years to come will impact communities like ours most acutely and we are committed to using this year's convention to set the stage for the work we will do to center our priorities, our people, and our power. As we choose our city's next leadership, navigate out of the COVID-19 pandemic, engage in the redistricting process and combat violence, Ward 8 Democrats must be at the table.

The Ward 8 Democrats has a long history of shifting the narrative and bringing our neighbors together to show real political force in a landscape that has too often discounted and ignored our voices. The leaders we elect to lead this organization, the platform we pass, and your continued participation will be essential to carrying that legacy forward and we are excited to begin that work today.

We are grateful for your attendance at today's convention and encourage you to join committees, sign up to be a precinct captain, and find other ways to remain engaged. Many of the challenges Ward 8 residents face won't be easy to overcome, but we have no doubt about the tremendous progress we can achieve together.

Best,

Barbara Jones and Markus Batchelor

Co-Chairs | Ward 8 Democrats 2021 Biennial Convention



HISTORY OF THE WARD EIGHT DEMOCRATS, INCORPORATED

The Ward Eight Democrats, Incorporated (W8Ds) was founded in 1983. However, the organization was not incorporated until September 11, 1991. The incorporators were Concha Johnson, the late JePhurnmeh Lawrence, the late Newton "Big Newt" Smith and its first president was the late Percy Battle.

The W8Ds is the largest ward organization because all registered Democrats are automatically members and dues are not required.

Any Ward 8 Democrat can attend any general meeting and have immediate right to vote on any issue.

The Ward Eight Democrats meet the third Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



PRESIDENT



Name: Salim Adofo
Precinct/ANC SMD: 122/8C07
Lived in Ward 8: 12 Years

Why Are You Running for This Position?

As President of the Ward 8 Democrats, I will:

- Professionally Develop Ward 8 Democratic Candidates
- Increase Ward 8 Engagement on Legislation
- Increase the Political Education of Residents
- Increase Student Civic Engagement

Brief Bio: Salim Adofo is a committed community servant with over 20 years of experience in community organizing and leadership. He serves as the Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C. As Chair, he advises the federal and local government on matters concerning economic development, education, budget concerns, area infrastructure, public safety, and affordable housing for over 14,000 residents.

In 2019, Salim was appointed to the Mayor's Commission on African American Affairs. His role on the Commission is to advise the Mayor, the Council, and the public on the views and needs of African-American communities with low-economic, education, or health indicators in the District and to analyze the decline of African-American residents as indicated by the previous United States Census.

PRESIDENT



Name: Troy Donte' Prestwood
Precinct/ANC SMD: 114/8A04
Lived in Ward 8: 15 Years

Why Are You Running for This Position?

For two years, you counted on me to build bridges and provide strong leadership for Ward 8 voters during an unprecedented time. Under my leadership, we raised nearly \$10,000 to invest in Ward 8 voters with a voter protection hotline helping hundreds locate vote centers, drop boxes, and complete mail-in ballots. We launched digital, social, and texting campaigns to reach residents. We held voter rallies and organized a "votercade" through the streets of Ward 8. We sponsored events on combating opioid overdose and offered support to those experiencing homelessness. We testified before the DC Council for more resources. And most recently, we funded two major back-to-school supply drives in our ward.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



TROY DONTÉ PRESTWOOD CONTS . . .

We held informative meetings on the DC budget, 2020 Census, public safety, youth, candidates' forums, LGBTQ pride, getting on DC Boards or Commissions, Kwanzaa, and our first-ever Lifetime Achievement Awards, to name a few. We know we have much more work to do: • Continue pushing for new voting technologies • Continue fighting for policies and legislation that advances our ward specifically around public safety, jobs, education, youth, seniors, and those who feel marginalized. • Continue developing our youth outreach to better engage young people and work closely with students to start Democratic clubs at all Ward 8 high schools. • Continue fighting to make the District the nation's 51st state. If we are going to continue building bridges on the progress we've made, I need your support. I'm asking for your vote to re-elect me as President of the Ward 8 Democrats.

Brief Bio: Mr. Troy Donté Prestwood is an educator, connector, social commentator, facilitator, and fierce advocate for common-sense solutions. Since 2019, he has served as President of the Ward 8 Democrats. For more than eight years, he served in various roles at the Ward 8 Democrats including Corresponding Secretary, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, and Chair of the Biennial Convention. Troy is a Ward 8-based small business owner of the Prestwood Group, an award-winning strategic communications and business services consultancy. A fourth-generation Washingtonian and graduate of DC Public Schools, Troy served three terms as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in 8A where he was part of the leadership team that worked on important issues impacting constituents including public safety, economic development, jobs and career training, access to healthcare, school equity, consumer protections, housing, environmental justice, and other local governmental issues. Troy is the founding editorial editor of District Chronicles newspaper and served in AmeriCorps as a VISTA service member assigned to the former East Capitol Dwellings Housing Project. Troy is the co-founder of River East Emerging Leaders and served on the boards of the Ward 8 Little League, Duke Ellington School of the Arts Alumni Association, and Youngnificent youth services. He currently serves as a founding board member of LEARN DC Public Charter School and sits on WAMU-FM's (NPR) community council. Troy wants to continue building bridges on the progress we've made so far. That's why he's asking for your vote for re-election as President of the Ward 8 Democrats.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



1ST VICE PRESIDENT



Name: Sheila Bunn
Precinct/ANC SMD: 126/8D06
Lived in Ward 8: 49 Years

Why Are You Running for This Position: I'm running because I want to continue to be an active participant in helping to improve and shape Ward 8's political landscape. Now more than ever, we as Democrats, must work even harder to ensure our less engaged neighbors are motivated to elect Democrats who will work to solve some of the pressing issues in Ward 8

like voter apathy, economic development, and affordable & equitable healthcare. I will use my experience and knowledge to help the Ward 8 Democrats engage voters on important issues, legislation and policy discussions like redistricting, the permanency of vote by mail in the District, and Rank Choice Voting.

As first Vice President, I will work to increase voter education and participation in the Ward and strengthen our relationship with untouched and new segments of the Ward 8 population. I am clear on the work that lies ahead, have a record of results, and can get the job done. I look forward to working with you to create equity in the power of our vote and strengthening our organization.

Brief Bio: A native Washingtonian and lifelong Ward 8 resident with a proven record of achievement, I've not only supported the Ward 8 Democrats and our local and national party financially over the years, but I've also done the work with the Party to educate and register voters. I am an Add-On Member of the DC Democratic State Committee, and I am also involved in other Ward 8 organizations where I am focused on elevating our youth, seniors, and the community at large. I currently serve as Vice President of the Bellevue Neighborhood Civic Association and most recently served as the Corresponding Secretary for the Ward 8 Democrats.

I bring 20-plus years of political and Hill/DC government experience to this illustrious body. Professionally, I am chief of staff to Ward 7 Councilmember and former mayor Vincent C. Gray. I previously managed the Consumer Services Division at the Office of the People's Counsel where we educated and assisted residents with their utility services. In the Gray Administration, I had a key role in implementing numerous citywide initiatives, oversaw the daily operations of the government and helped to manage a \$12.2 million office budget. Prior to my District government service, I had the honor of working with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton as her chief of staff.

I currently reside with my daughter in the Bellevue neighborhood of Ward 8.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



1ST VICE PRESIDENT



Name: Latisha Chisholm
Precinct/ANC SMD: Precinct: Unknown/8A06
Lived in Ward 8: 10 Years

Why Are You Running for This Position: As first Vice-President, in collaboration with Team Ward 8, and all other executive committee members, I am dedicated to supporting the aims of the Ward 8 Democratic Party, with specific focus on:

- Candidate development
- Voter education
- Supporting Ward 8 leadership to have quantifiable accomplishments
- Collaborating with constituents to create a platform for issues we need to address

Brief Bio: Latisha has three sons and lives in Ward 8's Anacostia neighborhood. She is an Assistant Principal and Dean of Student Life at Bard High School Early College DC. Since 2011, she has been an educator in DC Public School Ward 8 high schools (Ballou STAY, Ballou High School, and Anacostia High School) as: case manager for expecting and parenting students, special education teacher, English teacher, special education coordinator, and community school manager.

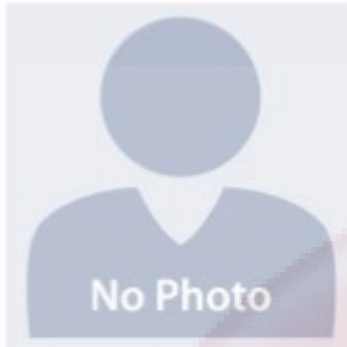
In addition to her employment with DCPS, Latisha served for 5 years as a mobile crisis specialist for Catholic Charities' Child and Adolescent Mobile Psychiatric Services. Her volunteerism includes 6 years of board service for DC Family & Youth Initiative, an organization that works with youth in the foster care system, where she chaired the board for 3 years and trained new mentors. She has held local and national leadership roles with the Stanford Black Alumni Association. She served on the DC State Board of Education's High School Graduation Requirements Task Force in 2017. Latisha also currently serves as the recording secretary for the executive cabinet of the Ward 8 Democrats.

Latisha earned her bachelor's degree in psychology - health and development, with honors in education, from Stanford University. She earned a Master of Social Welfare (MSW), with a concentration in children and families, from the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently a doctoral student in educational leadership, at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, where she studies equitable parent engagement and partnership practices.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Name: Stuart Anderson
Precinct/ANC SMD: 114/8A04
Lived in Ward 8: 12 Years

Why Are You Running for This Position: To continue the work of spreading the democratic philosophy; to ensure that my fellow Ward 8 residents have the most effective voice on political matters; and, to help move the slate platform forward to the benefit of the great Ward 8!

Brief Bio: Stuart Anderson is a native Washingtonian, father of four adorable daughters, proud graduate of the University of the District of Columbia, and an active member of the DC Democratic Party serving as the Ward 8 committee man. He is currently employed as the Community Engagement Director for the Anacostia Coordinating Council and the executive director for Family & Friends of Incarcerated People. He serves as the co-chair for the annual Martin Luther King Peace Walk and Parade; and co-founder of Don't Mute My Health.

RECORDING SECRETARY

NO CANDIDATES

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

NO CANDIDATES

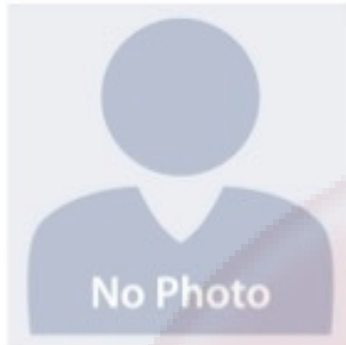
VOTE
COUNTS

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



TREASURER

Name: Darryl Ross
Precinct/ANC SMD: 120/8E05
Lived in Ward 8: 30 Years

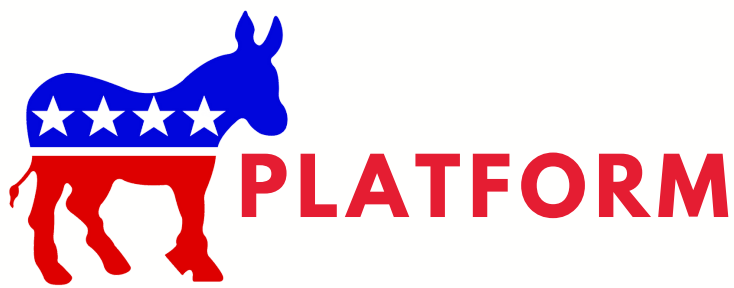


Why Are You Running for This Position: For almost nine terms, I have successfully carried out the responsibility of the Ward Eight Democrats Treasurer in depositing funds, paying obligations, providing monthly reports of financial activities, and filing periodic regulatory reports, in addition to carrying out Executive Committee and Finance Committee responsibilities as required. I want to continue providing this level of consistent service to the organization and membership in satisfying its

mission of voter education and outreach.

Brief Bio: Darryl Ross is the current and nine-term Treasurer of the Ward Eight Democrats. As Treasurer of the organization, he also serves on the Executive Committee and Finance and Fund-Raising Committee. Mr. Ross was a former Second Vice President of the Ward Eight Democrats. Further, he was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Catholic University; is a Certified Public Accountant; and has been an Auditor in the Federal government for 35 years. Moreover, Mr. Ross is the current and 29-year President of the Xenia Condominium Owners Association, and a Victory Youth Centers Board Member, both organizations located in Ward 8. In addition, he is the Treasurer of the Do Something Constituents Fund. Finally, Mr. Ross has been a District of Columbia and Ward 8 resident for 30 years, living in the Congress Heights neighborhood.

COUNTS



Ward Eight Democrats Platform 2019- 2021

1. Statehood for the District of Columbia and all efforts to gain more autonomy over DC government affairs.
2. Greater representation of Ward 8 residents in appointments to the Mayor's cabinet, jobs in the Executive Office of the Mayor, in senior staff positions in DC agencies, and on DC Boards and Commissions.
3. The hiring of more Ward 8 residents to work on District taxpayer-funded projects.
4. Economic development in underserved areas to include opportunity zones, small business incentives and workforce preparedness and education programs. The establishment of worksite child development centers with non-traditional hours.
5. The continuation and strong enforcement of rent control laws and the organizing of more tenants associations.
6. Stronger enforcement of existing environment laws and the promotion of efforts to reduce pollution and conserve natural energy. Deposits on returnable bottles and cans.
7. More public libraries in Ward 8 and public libraries open 12 hours per day, 7 days a week.
8. Sufficient access to healthcare for Ward 8 residents, which include location incentives for primary, ambulatory and ancillary care providers. Great support and meaningful treatment for substance abusers with more available beds.
9. Reduce prescription costs for senior citizens and expanded evening and weekend operating hours for Ward 8 Senior Wellness Center. Increased public and private support for families headed by grandparents.
10. Propose conducting elections by mail and online app.
11. Intensive efforts to establish support and sustain viable PTAs in all Ward 8 schools.
12. Moratorium on liquor stores.
13. Promote quality education for Ward 8 children and schools.
14. Support efforts around community building and crime prevention.
15. Identify partnerships in the community at large to help carry out our mission and goals.

IMPORTANT LINK:

Bylaws: <https://tinyurl.com/W8DemsBylaws>



RULES OF THE DAY

Nomination of Officers: All nominations that appear on the official ballot were approved by the Ward 8 Democrats Nomination Committee. The Committee members include:

- Wanda Lockridge, *Chairperson and Ward 8 Committeewoman*
- Regina Pixley, *Ward 8 Committeewoman*
- Stephen Slaughter

Candidates had to meet the following criteria:

1. Ward 8 resident for at least a year prior to the September 18, 2021 Convention.
2. Registered Democrat residing in Ward 8 at least 30 days before the September 18, 2021 Convention.
3. Must have attended four (4) Ward 8 Democrats meetings within the past year; attendance was verified via online registration for virtual meetings via the Zoom platform.
4. Must have no outstanding or existing financial obligations to the Ward 8 Democrats.
5. Individuals who submitted his/her intent to run for a position prior to the September 8, 2021, deadline do not have to be physically present at the Convention to seek election. Non-present members cannot be nominated from the floor.

Nominations from the floor:

Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Ward 8 Democrats Biennial Convention. Nominated candidates must be physically present and meet the criteria listed above.

Candidate Speeches:

- Candidates for President will be allowed to give a 2-minute candidate statement.
- All other candidates for the other positions will be allowed to deliver a 1-minute candidate statement.
- Questions will not be allowed from the audience.

Voting:

- The voting process will be conducted by members of the DC Democratic State Committee.
- Eligible voters will be determined by the voting rolls housed with the DC Board of Elections.
- Same-day registration is allowable, and the voter will be provided with a ballot that will be provisionally sealed until their registration is verified by the DC Board of Elections, if necessary.



- Numbered ballots will be provided to State Committee officials by the Nomination Committee at least five (5) working days prior to the election to verify the numbering sequence, the total number of ballots and the imprint with a special mark to prohibit ballot duplication and/or voter fraud.
- Voting will begin at 12:00 p.m. and end promptly at 2:00 p.m. All eligible Ward 8 Democrats in line to vote before 2:00pm will be allowed to cast a ballot.
- Curbside voting shall be made available for any reason, upon request.
- Write-Ins will be allowed but must meet the eligibility criteria stated above. The candidate receiving the most votes will be declared the winner.
- Only representatives of the DC Democratic State Committee, excluding WED members, shall publicly count the unchallenged ballots on the premises immediately following the voting. The counters shall reveal the number of challenged ballots.
- Each candidate and/or his/her designee may watch the vote counting.
- If the position is uncontested, declaration of the office may be done by acclamation.
- After verification by the DC Board of Elections, the DC Democratic State Committee, if necessary, shall count all challenged ballots.

Challenged Voter/Ballots Process

- If a voter is not listed on the voter rolls provided by the DC Board of Elections, thereby deemed a challenged voter, the voter must show a voter registration card and photo ID to the registrar.
- Voters may be challenged by only another Ward Eight voter. If the challenge is upheld, his or her ballot is thereby deemed a challenged ballot and the following shall apply:
 - Challenged voter shall be given an index card to record personal data (name, address, voting precinct)
 - Challenged voter shall be given a regular ballot which will be sealed in an envelope for verification by the DC Board of Elections no later than five working days after the election (if required).
 - The challenged ballot envelope shall have the name of the challenged voter and the reason for the challenge displayed on the front.
 - All challenged ballots shall be secured by a designated voter clerk.



DEMOCRATS
CHANGE THAT MATTERS

DC DEMOCRATIC STATE PARTY WARD 8 REPRESENTATIVES

Charles Wilson, *Chairman*

Philip Pannell, *At-Large Committeeman*

Sharece Crawford, *At-Large Committeewoman*

Wanda D. Lockridge, *Ward 8 Committeewoman*

Regina Pixley, *Ward 8 Committeewoman*

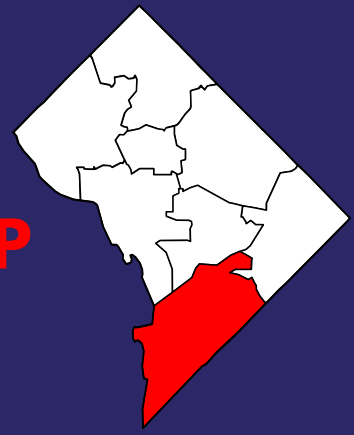
Stuart Anderson, *Ward 8 Committeeman*

Anthony Muhammad, *Ward 8 Committeeman*

Sheila Bunn, *Add-On Committee member*

Devone Lesesne, *Vice President, Young Democrats*

YOUR WARD EIGHT DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP



US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Adeoye Owolewa, Shadow Representative

www.repdoye.com

adeoye.owolewa@dc.gov

202-390-9480

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Trayon White, Sr., Councilmember, Ward 8

www.TrayonWhite8.com

twhite@dccouncil.us

202-724-8045

DC STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Carlene Reid, Ward 8 Representative

www.SBOE.dc.gov

carlene.reid@dc.gov

202-618-0525

Thank You!

2021 BIENNIAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Markus Batchelor, Co-Chair

Barbara Jones, Co-Chair

Deloris Walker

Jackie Ward

2021 BIENNIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Wanda D. Lockridge, Chair

Regina Pixley

Stephen Slaughter

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FROM 2019-2021

Troy Donte' Prestwood, President

Deloris Walker, 1st Vice President

Salim Adofo, 2nd Vice President

Latisha Chisholm, Recording Secretary

Sheila Bunn, Correspondence Secretary

Darryl Ross, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FROM 2019-2021

Dr. Adeoye Owolewa, Issues & Legislative Affairs

LaJoy Johnson-Law, Issues & Legislative Affairs

Ron Lassiter, Senior Engagement

Barbara Jones, Special Events

Michael Grier, Development and Fundraiser

Mark Jones, Youth Outreach



NOMINATION AND ELECTION CHALLENGE PROCESS “HOW TO FILE A CHALLENGE”

A challenger must be a registered Ward 8 Democrat to file a challenge.

NOMINATION CHALLENGE PROCESS

- A. Please file your challenge via <https://tinyurl.com/W8DNominationChallenge>.
- B. The following information is required. *(Incomplete information will void the challenge)*

Name	Email Address
Address	Contact Number
Are you Ward 8 Democrat?	Description of Challenge
Supporting documentation <i>(if applicable)</i>	
- C. Deadline to file is **September 23rd at 11:59 P.M.**
- D. A decision will be rendered on or before **September 30th.**
- E. The DC Democratic Party will select a 3-member panel to review and decide on the challenge. Ruling is final.

ELECTION CHALLENGE PROCESS

For a challenge of the election process to be considered, it must be in writing and submitted to the chairperson of the DC Democratic State Committee's Party Organization and Function Committee at edwardsservices@aol.com no later than **September 23rd at 11:59 P.M.** The challenger will be notified on or before **September 30th.** Ruling is final.

The following information is required. *(Incomplete information will void the challenge)*

Name	Email Address
Address	Contact Number
Are you Ward 8 Democrat?	Description of Challenge
Supporting documentation <i>(if applicable)</i>	

VOTER'S GUIDE



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The Ward 8 Democrats



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