

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_77
Tab Number: 25
Document Title: Voters Guide for the September 14, 1993
Election for the Chair of District of
Document Date: 1993
Document Country: United States --
District of Columbia
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02606



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

VOTERS GUIDE

for the SEPTEMBER 14, 1993,
ELECTION FOR CHAIR OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

CANDIDATES' FORUM

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

5:30 PM RECEPTION
6:30 PM PROGRAM

DISTRICT BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
FIRST FLOOR, ROOM #9

Sponsored by the District of Columbia League of Women Voters Education Fund, the D.C. employees of WASHINGTON GAS and the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Citizens Associations.

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK! POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 AM- 8:00 PM.
All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote on September 14.

QUESTIONS? CALL 727-2525 FOR INFORMATION, INCLUDING HANDICAPPED ACCESS
PREGUNTAS? TELEFONO 727-2525

VOTER REGISTRATION is closed between August 16 and September 29, 1993.

LISTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS are available by ward in branch libraries and citywide at the Martin Luther King library.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Registered voters who cannot get to the polls on Election Day, September 14, 1993, because of illness, physical disability or travel, may vote by absentee ballot.

There are two ways for District voters to vote by absentee ballot.

In person: At the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE), Suite 250, 441 Fourth St. NW beginning Monday, August 30, and ending Monday, September 13, at 4:45 PM. An emergency absentee ballot may be cast on September 14 by 8 PM at the BOEE office.

In writing: Requests for absentee ballots to be

mailed must be made in writing and must reach the Board office not later than September 6. They must include the voter's name, address (as on the voter's registration), the address where the ballot must be mailed, the reason for the request of the ballot, and the voter's signature. The ballot must be postmarked by September 13. One individual may not request a ballot for another.

HOW WE ARE GOVERNED: Under the Home Rule Act of 1973, the District is governed by an elected mayor and a thirteen member city council. All have four year terms.

The Mayor's office is located at One Judiciary Square (441 Fourth Street NW), Washington, DC 20001. The DC Council offices are located in the District Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004.

While much local authority is exercised by the Mayor and the DC Council, Congress has retained budget control and certain other authorities, which are the responsibilities of specific Congressional committees.

NOTICE

Candidates were asked to limit their answers to the four questions to 400 words in total, and limit "activities" to 25 words. Answers to questions are presented unedited. This guide may be quoted or reproduced with credit to the D.C. League of Women Voters.

Candidates certified by the Board of Elections and Ethics were required to file petitions signed by 3,000 registered voters residing in at least five of the eight wards of the city. The candidacy of Vincent Orange was not certified by the Board of Elections and Ethics and the BOEE decision was upheld by the D.C. Court of Appeals.

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS OF THE D.C. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND, AND FOR THIS GUIDE TO D.C. EMPLOYEES OF WASHINGTON GAS, GIANT FOOD, C&P TELEPHONE, CAPITAL SPOTLIGHT, CURRENT NEWSPAPERS AND THE SOUTHWESTER.

Grace Malakoff, President

CANDIDATES

CHARLENE DREW JARVIS, Democrat

Occupation: Ward 4 Representative, Council of the District of Columbia.

Education: Roosevelt High School (D.C.); Howard University (Masters); Oberlin College (B.S.); University of MD (Ph.D)

Activities: Chair of the D.C. Committee on Economic Development, National Co-Chair of the Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign, 1991-92 member of Leadership Washington.

EMILY FITZSIMMONS, Socialist Workers

Occupation: Aircraft cleaner for United Airlines. Member of International Association of Machinists, local 1759.

Education: State University of New York at Albany World College, West Petaluma CA-International Development.

Activities: Defense of abortion clinics, solidarity with anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, active in labor movement, activities opposing US embargo of Cuba.

MARIE DRISSEL, Democrat

Occupation: PhD, Candidate; ANC Chairperson—Sheridan Kalorama

Education: BA, Sociology, Maryland University; MBA, Finance, The American University; PhD, Candidate, Public Administration & Law George Washington University

Bio: Third generation Washingtonian. Activist in DC politics for twenty-one years in finance, housing, tax issues. Lobbied the District for better financial reporting, accountability; improved property assessments, appeals.

LINDA W. CROPP, Democrat

Occupation: At Large Member, D.C. Council; Guidance Counselor

Education: B.A. and M.A., Howard University, Wash. D.C.

Activities: Governing Boards of the Travelers Aid Society, Girl Scouts - National Capital, Junior Achievement, and the United Negro College Fund Advisory Board.

DAVID A. "DAVE" CLARKE, Democrat

Occupation: Law Professor, D.C. School of Law

Activities: Committee Against All Killing; Committee for [Assault Weapon] Strict Liability; Southern Christian Leadership Conference Board; Calvary Baptist Church.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 1: PRIORITIES

AS COUNCIL CHAIR, WHAT WILL BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES, AND WHY?

JARVIS

- "Reinventing" government to be more resident and business friendly.
- Improving Council oversight of the city's finances to promote financial stability.
- Identifying further cost saving measures and reductions in the city's payroll to maintain a balanced budget.
- Implementing a more aggressive economic development & job creation strategy, both locally and regionally, to increase revenue to the city.
- Coordinating the efforts of our police, other city agencies and school system to create a hostile environment for drug use and sales.
- Insisting on aggressive enforcement of our child truancy laws coupled with intervention strategies for troubled youth to return our children to the classrooms.
- Working aggressively to retain federal agencies in the District.
- Improving the racial climate in the District.

FITZSIMMONS

As Council Chair my top priorities would be building solidarity with unionists on strike and those workers fighting to defend their jobs and living standard. I would support the mobilizations of women and men defending abortion clinics against Operation Rescue's attacks. And I would mobilize working people and youth to oppose Washington's military adventures abroad, such as their bombings of Iraq and Somalia and intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

The true nature of these "humanitarian" actions is becoming more clear — to control and dominate the people and resources of those areas of the world. The shooting down of unarmed civilians in Mogadishu has a parallel in the District, where police have shot down 14 people since the beginning of this year alone. I would use the office of chairman to mobilize working people in demanding indictments and prosecutions of those police guilty of such brutality.

DRISSEL

Hold Oversight Hearings on the following:

1. The budget process. The public should know what hurdles businesses, community groups, and the Council faced when attempting to gather budget information for TY1994 and TY1993 Supplemental. Selective, late, and no access to information must stop. My top priority will be to educate and encour-

RESPONSE BY DAVID A. "DAVE" CLARKE

The following narrative addresses your questions.
We have a first-term Mayor. We need a Chairman with experience who will cooperate with the Mayor but who is independent enough to stand on his own when necessary.

The fiscal crisis demands something from everybody. The city's workers have already made a contribution — many with their jobs. We cannot let them go and then hire others. I support further reduction of the work force through a hiring freeze and retraining employees in nonessential positions to fill vacant essential positions.

Currently we are paying over \$290 million in retirement costs. In 11 years, our unfunded pension liability will reach \$9.7 billion. Everybody must be called on to contribute to the fund's solvency. Contributions from employees and the DC government may have to be increased, COLAs may have to be adjusted, and a special effort must be made to convince the Congress to pay for the unfunded liability which it created and/or to extend the deadline. A new system must be established for new employees.

We are currently paying over \$300 million in debt service for past capital projects like One Judiciary Square and are borrowing so much that, in

age ANC's, businesses and community groups to be ready in fall 1993 for the winter 1994 budget hearings. The citizens need to clearly tell us what is working and what is not working.

2. The Department of Finance and Revenue. Our cash cow is in serious trouble. This city has serious revenue problems. This department must be top notch.
3. Sole source contracting. The Inspector General's report on contracting should be publicly aired.
4. Program evaluation procedures. When legislation is passed there are no performance standards included to hold departments accountable. Many citizens believe there is little to no program evaluation activities in the DC government and no one really knows why things are not working well.

Advocate the following:

1. Amending The Financial Reporting and Accountability Act to require a citizen/expert financial panel. Citizens need to have the District's "monthly bank statement" and 5 year goals presented in a manner which is understandable.
2. Retaining finance and revenue functions within the Committee of the Whole.

CROPP

• Productive, cost-efficient D.C. Government services, which will reflect program priorities and wise use of available funds; the goal is to provide good service to citizens.

• Cooperation among Council members, and between the Council and the Mayor — these conditions are necessary if the citizens are to reap the full benefits of a co-equal partnership between a strong independent legislative and executive branch of government.

• A thorough and comprehensive examination of the base budget, with the objectives of eliminating redundant and duplicative services, as well as progressing toward a "Program budget" structure; a goal of fiscal solvency and improvement of the quality of life for citizens.

• To conduct a comprehensive assessment of D.C. Government activities, to include: budget and accounting systems, cost reduction and productivity, improvement in the delivery of services, pension and retirement systems, and stimulating economic development.

• The establishment of closer cooperative ties — with Washington area governments, especially in the areas of public safety, economic development, and placement of the unemployed and homeless.

six years, we may reach the level where the Charter effectively says that we can borrow no more. Then our children will not be able to build anything for our grandchildren. We need a capital review system, with public participation, to prioritize the projects for which we borrow money. Taxpayers need to be told on their bills how much is to pay past debt.

A recent financial audit found \$77 million in possible liability by the city for law suits. A legal audit needs to identify the causes of this liability and to recommend corrective actions including assessment of at least some of the costs against the agencies causing the problems to inspire greater care.

The profit must be taken out of killing. I organized Referendum 006 to preserve the law to make producers of assault weapons subject to law suits. However, the Police Department is failing to advise victims, or their families, of what kind of weapon was used. Without that information, no suits can be brought. I will work to force the revelation of that information.

I support linking downtown development to the production of housing and produced over 2000 units through that process while on the Council.

I do not support the new stadium as proposed.

CANDIDATES' FORUM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

DISTRICT BUILDING, 1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., FIRST FLOOR, ROOM #9

5:30 PM reception • 6:30 PM program • Sponsored by the D.C. League of Women Voters Education Fund, the D.C. employees of Washington Gas and the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Citizens Associations.

No. 2: BUDGET, DEBT

WHAT BUDGET MEASURES WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO RESOLVE THE ACCUMULATED DEBT, INCLUDING THE UNDERFUNDED PENSION PLAN, AND THE PROJECTED IMBALANCE BETWEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES?

JARVIS

- The accumulated deficit was eliminated through the Council's authorization of deficit reduction bond issuance. As Council Chair, I will demand the fiscal discipline in the District's finances to insure the repayment of the bondholders.
- In the year 2004 the District faces a \$7 billion unfunded pension liability for police, firefighters, teachers and judges. A large portion of this pension deficit resulted from the failure of Congress to adequately endow the pension fund prior to Home Rule. As recommended by the Rivlin Commission, the long-term solution requires the extension of the current level of federal pension funding of \$52 million from 14 to 45 years.
- There must be a reformulation of the current pension system to insure self-sufficiency of the fund for future pensioners.

FITZSIMMONS

For the Democrats and Republicans talk of balancing the budget simply means making working people pay for the economic crisis of the capitalist system. Workers are laid off, education, health care and other social services are cut or contracted out to private companies in order that millions of dollars can be made available to pay the city's wealthy bondholders. As Chair of the City Council I would use my office to mobilize working people in this city to demand the federal government make massive funding available for programs to protect working people against the economic depression.

Immediate measures are needed to unit us in our struggles and to defend us from the worst effects of the economic crisis. I would support demands of the labor movement to shorten the work week with no cut in pay, that would create millions of jobs; and extend affirmative action in employment, housing, and education.

The current mayor and City Council only disagree on tactics, that is, how many and how fast to lay off city workers — how many and how fast to cut social programs. All of the proposals to "raise more revenue" and reduce the budget deficit are aimed at making working people pay for the bankers' and employers' crisis. Working people need our own party to defend our interests. I would use my office to begin that fight.

DRISSEL

I believe that merely balancing the budget from year-to-year only puts off the real issues until the next year. The real issue is the city has enough money to provide "world class services" and programs for its citizens. To solve these structural problems the city will have to put its workers on notice... poor work equals no job.

Working for the District is not an entitlement. We cannot continue to tax everyone out of the City and not provide services.

CROPP

- Short term measures — implement the provisions of the FY93 and 94 budgets, initiate the beginnings of program budgeting, require specific financial reports from the Executive, curtail borrowing (especially to meet cash flow problems), reach agreement with the Federal Government regarding the federal payment formula, and conduct a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of D.C. Government
- Long term measures — establish a funding formula for the D.C. schools, to include average daily attendance and performance indicators; establish automated management systems; insist upon White House support in initiating pension plan negotiations with the Congress; consider a wide-array of tax incentives to stimulate business development within the city; and, seek regional agreements regarding transportation of hard-core D.C. unemployed to available job sites in the suburbs.

No. 3: FAVOR DOWNTOWN HOUSING?

DO YOU FAVOR INCLUDING HOUSING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AS CALLED FOR IN THE PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

JARVIS

Yes. I support a critical mass of housing in the downtown area as called for in the present comprehensive plan.

FITZSIMMONS

Housing, like health care, is a right. Working people spend 30% or more of their income on housing. I favor reducing rents and mortgages to no more than 10% of one's income. I support the construction of decent and affordable public housing so no one is homeless.

DRISSEL

I am clearly in favor of housing in the downtown area as called for in the present comprehensive plan. I state this from every angle possible. We need middle and upper class tax payers — we must expand the tax base. On an international and national basis the financial institutions regulatory bodies adopted risk adjusted ratios fully implemented on January 1, 1993. The name of the game is housing. All financial institutions have to hold half of the capital required for housing versus commercial building. On a personal basis, I moved into one of those "SP zoned" buildings targeted to bring taxpayers downtown. It was and is a wild success — filled with taxpayers and voters.

CROPP

Yes, I do favor further development of downtown housing, as both an economic development and environmental enhancement.

Downtown needs a neighborhood of people.

No. 4: FAVOR NEW 76,000-SEAT STADIUM?

DO YOU FAVOR THE PROPOSED 76,000-SEAT STADIUM?

JARVIS

Not unless the appropriate Environmental Impact Statements are carried out. The scope of the impact statements must be expanded beyond the stadium to include Barney Circle and the Children's Island.

FITZSIMMONS

No answer.

DRISSEL

I support environmental justice. No neighborhood should be a consistent dumping ground. I support real environmental impact statements. Good EIS's bring a level playing field for neighborhoods. At the same time we must keep our national football team. The goodwill that they bring to the City is immeasurable. The answer is renovation of RFK. Financially, the new stadium will be a major drain. No one has estimated the business tax revenues lost when corporations deduct the expense of sky-boxes. (Note: deduction may be limited in Clinton budget proposals.) Income taxes from permanent and temporary jobs will not equal this loss.

CROPP

I favor efforts to retain professional football in the District, within reasonable limits. This could include expanding the present stadium or building a new one, as long as the interests of District taxpayers, adjacent neighborhoods, and the environment receive appropriate consideration.

INITIATIVE No. 37

THE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ACT OF 1992

This Initiative requires the Mayor to notify the District's Congressional Delegate, in writing, that a majority of District voters request that the Delegate propose a Constitutional amendment directing the U.S. Government to:

- Abolish all nuclear warheads by the year 2000
- Pursue a good faith effort to eliminate war, armed conflict, and military operations
- Actively promote international peace and nuclear disarmament
- Convert weapons industries into constructive, ecologically beneficial peacetime industries; redirect those resources to meet human needs, including housing, health care, agriculture, education, and environment. This amendment will become effective upon ratification of a comparable provision by the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Statement supporting Initiative 37 by Hilda Howland M. Mason, Member-at-Large, Council of the District of Columbia:

To oppose Initiative 37 would be to say that there should be no citizen discussion of the circumstances in which the United States and the former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States) might jointly lead nuclear disarmament efforts, might convert their crippling war-machine economies into housing, food, health care, education, and environmental restoration.

Initiative 37 allows District voters to send a message to Congress that we want the United States to work together with the CIS toward worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons, and to earmark the tax dollars saved to serve human needs: It expresses the view that an appropriate way to accomplish global nuclear disarmament is for the United States and the Commonwealth to lead by example.

The initiative does NOT eliminate the discretion of the District's Delegate in Congress to propose a measure containing additional conditions, such as agreement by others besides the Commonwealth.

What Initiative 37 DOES is create an incentive for ordinary citizens to develop solutions to urgent problems that political leaders have not yet solved.

Since the matter concerns the country as a whole, it is appropriate for the people of the District to speak to their Delegate with a strong voice that cannot be ignored, through their votes in favor of Initiative 37.

Do we continue to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on weapons we can only hope will never be used, or do we use that fabulous wealth to build more schools — homes — hospitals — and promote more meaningful careers for our young people?

A strong vote in favor of Initiative 37 will send a message that the voters of the District favor serious commitment to a less dangerous, more humane world.

Statement by Philip A. Fleming, President, Lawyers Alliance for World Security (LAWS), 1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20009 opposing Initiative 37:

Initiative #37, though well-intentioned, is flawed procedurally and substantively. Substantively, it would be unwise for the U.S. Government "to abolish all nuclear warheads by the year 2000" unilaterally. The U.S. should not eliminate its nuclear deterrent until there is (1) a multilateral convention banning all nuclear weapons; (2) a substantially strengthened nonproliferation regime in place, and (3) agreement by the nuclear states, implemented by the UN Security Council, to place the nuclear deterrent under international control.

LAWS supports deep cuts in existing nuclear arsenals well beyond START I and START II, but it is fanciful to believe that pressure for a U.S. Constitutional amendment would enhance the likelihood of achieving any of the foregoing steps, much less by a certain date.

In addition, LAWS believes it would be unwise to abolish the U.S. defense capability by converting "weapons industries into constructive, ecologically beneficial peacetime industries". While reasonable people may differ about the size of the Pentagon budget, which major weapons systems to cancel and which military forces and bases to downsize or close, U.S. leadership in world affairs depends, in part, upon a technically superior, competent armed leadership in world affairs depends, in part, upon a technically superior, competent armed force.

- The procedural flaws include, among others:
- U.S. Constitutional provisions should not be contingent upon the action of other sovereign states. Multilateral treaties are the appropriate vehicle for conditionality.
 - Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are separate sovereign states, and each is in possession of former USSR ICBMs; the CIS is no longer a viable governmental entity.
 - The likelihood of Congressional support of co-sponsors for such an amendment is virtually nil.

A "sense of the District of Columbia" resolution expressing support for rapidly accelerating the reduction of all weapons of mass destruction, presented to the D.C. City Council, could, on the other hand, be a useful expression of the legislative concern in the District about the need to reduce all nuclear arms in the post-Cold War world.

BE INFORMED...

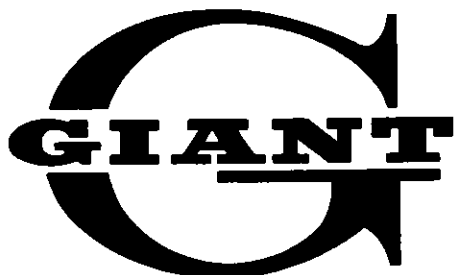
then
exercise
your
★
Right to
vote!

The right to take part in government affairs is an important right.

You can effect change by voting to elect people and voting on issues that will impact the future of the community. You have a choice but only if you vote!

Giant is pleased to sponsor the special Voter's Guide. We hope you will read it thoroughly so you can make informed decisions when you enter the voting booth.

We've been an involved corporate citizen of the community since 1936. By participating in public affairs, you can also be involved! We urge you to vote!



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

That's my Giant
