

Chris Otten for Mayor 2006 DC Statehood Green Party

Isn't it time for honest and strategic leadership especially one that focuses on the working folks of our great city? I believe I can offer this and more. My three-point platform attempts to tackle the biggest issues I see facing the District today.

1) Educational and Economic Stewardship

The priorities of city leadership over the past decade have been questionable at best. Baseball has taken priority over education. How about our libraries--city officials want to demolish MLK and build a so-called mixed-use library whereby MLK shares space with Starbucks and condos! What happened to adult education and vocational training?

a) Education

- Completely elected Public School Board
- Implement solid community volunteer programs in our schools
- Diffuse from top-down management to more ground-up school-level decision making
- Moratorium on Charter Schools
- Rebuild our child and adult vocational education programs
- Institute a strong citywide special education program
- Refurbish and maintain libraries as strong educational centerpieces for neighborhoods

b) Economics

- Small business promotion via tax relief and grants
- Create jobs centered around environmental protection
- Reopen general hospital to help alleviate high medical expenses

2) Retain Citywide Diversity

While I don't disagree we should welcome new residents to the District, it should not be at the expense of long-time working-class District residents. Wealthy suburbanites are ushering into the new condos springing up everywhere and we wonder why this city is being squeezed of its color and culture. Couple this with rising housing costs and diminishing social services and we can see why more and more working-class families are being forced out.

- Moratorium on the Condoization of the District
- Strong inclusionary zoning policies
- Very strong rent control policies

3) Empower our Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

ANC Commissioners are the most accountable elected position in our city. They are elected every 2 years, they are our neighbors and we can visit them at home, and they attend the many neighborhood citizen meetings and listening sessions. They are the eyes and ears of each District neighborhood. The question is why does the Mayor and City Council continue to ignore most of their decisions? If elected, I will make sure the Mayor and City Council won't be able to ignore them.

- Pay ANC's a part-time stipend
- Ten times current allocation for ANC budgets
- Allow ANC's to make local and binding decisions

For more details on how I will address the issues above, please check out www.otten06.com or call 202-234-7075.

