



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
VOTERS GUIDE MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Chris Otten, DC Statehood Green Party
August 1, 2006

1. Please provide the following biographical information:

Age: 31

Occupation: Web Designer; Manager

Education: BA, Mathematics, College of the Holy Cross

Qualifications for the office you seek:

* **Budgets** -Fortune 500 Analyst -Ability to prepare, write, and review Organizational Budgets -Built a non-profit from scratch -Payroll: Organizational & Personal

* **Management** -Volunteer Coordination: Training and Oversight -Learn and Serve participant and Facilitator -Team Outreach Strategy and Implementation - Networking Events Coordination

* **Legal** -Criminal Defense (alleged low-level crimes) -Ability to develop, write, and review Organizational Contracts -Ordained Reverend, Universal Life Church (civil partnerships) -Prison Reform / Restorative Justice Philosophy

* **Education** -BA in Mathematics -Career literacy tutor and assistant program manager -High-end IT Training Development and Implementation -Facilitative Leadership Qualified

2. Explain why you think you are the leader to turn around one of the District's failing agencies, in particular the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, or the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration. And, how will you do it?

Part of leadership is helping to facilitate and grow more effective leaders. I have the experience to do this as I have credentials in Facilitative Leadership, I have trained and coordinated volunteers as the director of several community-based and non-profit programs, and I have the experience of using technology to help

with building and demonstrating strong leadership skills. With this stated, I am tired of seeing testimony from the heads of executive level departments claiming they aren't prepared to provide service statistics. Under my administration we will have leaders at all department levels which can provide service reports in a relatively short time, leaders who are aware of these reports and the figures associated therein, and know how to use these reports to shift department policies so to provide better service. This is not happening now and the Mayoral and Council oversight simply is not working to improve this pitiful situation. We need better leadership and accountability and I believe I can provide that.

3. Will your administration work to provide a new health facility in place of the old DC General Hospital? If so, what kind of a health facility will you advocate?

We must reopen General Hospital, period. The closure of DC General is a huge scandal that has been ignored for the most part by mass media outlets here in the District. To find out more about this scandal, feel free to visit <http://www.otten06.com/hospital>

DC General can again be a beacon of hope for DC residents. I envision a healthcare spokes wheel with DC General anchoring the center of a inspiring and diverse medical facility that not only goes to serve those hurt and sick, but to provide a launching pad for preventative services and education, and a training school for our children aspiring to become doctors.

4. Given that the city charter and law gives the Board of Education the authority to set policy for the city's public schools and given that city council must change the law, how will you as Mayor exert leadership over the city's schools?

I will rid the District of a bifurcated school board. We must have a completely elected School Board to hold everyone accountable to the people of DC. I will work with the school board and superintendent to shift school management from a top-down philosophy to a more transparent ground-up style where more decisions are made at the individual school level involving the principals, teachers, and parents. Additionally, I will help facilitate ward wide educational networking events regularly where traditional public school leadership, charter school leadership, city policy makers, librarians and vocational training stakeholders can come together to build personal rapport, share good working models, and begin implementing solid educational action plans that promote partnership across all levels of educational service.

5. Will you follow the recommendation of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force and send legislation to the Council establishing a fee on new commercial development in DC -- a practice adopted by a number of cities -- as a way to deal with the need for affordable housing that results from new commercial development.

At the very least, yes commercial fees will be put into place. I am very concerned that current City leadership is not assessing the consequences of massive displacement being caused by current development plans. I will institute a moratorium on any new condominium development as this type of development is most quickly displacing working families in this city. We must also have strong inclusionary zoning laws. As these new condos go up and replace older buildings, the people displaced cannot afford the new units. This must end. Everyone moved out of a development building should have the right within reason to move back into the new building. I would also like to see strong Rent Control regulations, as most working families cannot afford a mortgage and thus why they rent. But rent is skyrocketing under the current City leadership. Strong rent control can help stem the mass migration of long-time DC families.

Chris Otten for Mayor
Vision & Results
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