



## **The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee**

*1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)*

### **Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) District of Columbia – 2020 Candidate Questionnaire**

*Please return the completed form via email to [cpac.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:cpac.dmv@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2020. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.*

**Office Sought: Council member Ward 2**

**Candidate's Name: Peter Bolton**

**Current Occupation: Journalist**

**Party: DC Statehood Green**

**Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website):**

P.O. Box 57405

Washington, DC 20037-9995

(202) 602-7360

<http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton>

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1. What specific actions will you take to improve the well-being of your constituents and improve District services and access for all residents?

My platform includes a commitment to a city-based Medicare-for-all system, abolition of all WMATA user fares, bringing all utilities into public municipal ownership. See my full platform at <http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform>

2. During recent legislative sessions, the D.C. Council advanced B23-0201, a bill to establish a District of Columbia Office of Caribbean Affairs (OCA), which is a long-standing priority of the Caribbean-American Community. Please explain your position on this legislation and whether you will support efforts to staff and fund the proposed office?

I would support it.

3. What initiatives did you lead or support that impact Washington, D.C.'s Caribbean-American community?

I'm new to the political arena so haven't led or supported any initiatives specifically to the benefit of DC's Caribbean community. However, I have a long record of involvement in activism against US intervention in the Latin American and Caribbean region as well as support for immigrant groups from the region. I was a leader of the Latin America and Caribbean Activist Network (LACAN) and hosted events at the Venezuelan embassy and led actions against US intervention at the Organization of American States (OAS).



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4. Are you familiar with the status and impact of Caribbean-American owned businesses in your community and throughout Washington, D.C.? How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the City's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses? In addition, how will you improve procurement and contract opportunities for these businesses?

This isn't something I have a huge amount of knowledge about, but my party has always been a staunch supporter of minority-owned businesses and giving them priority in procurement and contracts.

5. There are increased concerns regarding violence – especially gun violence – in many parts of the District. What are your proposals to address and stem violence with 21<sup>st</sup> century tools and policies?

As I state in my platform: (see more: <http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/gun-control>)

I am a staunch supporter of gun control and ultimately aspire to both an unarmed public and unarmed police force. Though this is not a realistic goal in the current climate, if elected I would propose a citywide handgun and assault rifle ban that includes an amnesty program modelled on that enacted in Australia in the 1990s.

6. How do you propose increasing access to safe, quality, affordable mental and physical health care and services throughout the District of Columbia?

In my platform, I pledge to fight on the Council for increased investment in preventive healthcare such as nutrition and mental health services as well as increased funding for special needs provision and mental health provision in schools.

See here for more:

<http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/healthcare>

<http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/education>

7. Unfortunately, the challenges and concerns facing immigrants are increasing at an alarming rate. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform? How do you propose addressing the challenges facing DREAMers, the administration's suspension of temporary protective status for many D.C. residents, and the constant threats facing sanctuary cities?

Absolutely and I have addressed this issue in my journalism work:



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<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/08/20/bidens-association-with-obamas-toxic-legacy/>  
(see subheading ‘Deporter-in-chief’)

8. There is growing attention and distress about the significant increase in lawsuits filed against District residents by debt collectors over the last few years. What is your position on the Debt Buying Limitation Amendment Act, which is pending before the D.C. Council’s Committee on Business and Economic Development and the Council’s Committee of the Whole?

I support it.

9. What concrete steps will you take to improve the District of Columbia’s Public School system – including facilities and equipment, teacher treatment, relationships with parents, as well as education standards and test scores in all wards of the City?

I support increasing funding for public schools within the district. You can see my full policy platform on education and higher education here:

<http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/education>

<http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/higher-education>

10. In Washington, D.C., many seniors seek to age in their homes and/or communities. What efforts will you take to improve service accessibility, support for families, and the quality of programs offered to the City’s senior citizens?

I support more funding for seniors in the District. My platform on this issue reads:

I believe strongly that the quality of life for seniors is one of the best ways of gauging a community’s societal health. I am therefore a strong supporter of increasing spending on social activities for seniors. As with youth provision, this should run the gamut from sport and leisure to arts and culture and beyond. Of course, I also feel strongly that no one should be left to live their golden years in penury. Unfortunately, however, in DC many of our senior citizens struggle with issues of poverty and lack of access to basic services. Therefore, I support establishing a special seniors’ security fund to supplement social security. (See more here: <http://dcstatehoodgreenparty.org/candidates/peter-bolton/peters-platform/youth-and-seniors>)

11. What priority issues inspired your candidacy for political office?

There are many, but my opposition to capitalism as a way of organizing society informs my commitment to building a different kind of society in which economic forces work primarily for the fulfilment of public need as opposed to the pursuit of private profit.



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