

Spring Campaign 2017: A strong, progressive, moral DC budget



*“A budget is a moral document.”
– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Here in DC, we have no vote in Congress. And Republicans and the new Administration have threatened to cut vital federal funding to the District. If they do, the District’s most vulnerable residents will lose access to critical programs they depend on. In these uncertain times, we need to increase the District’s fiscal flexibility and prepare for possible federal funding cuts.

In addition, the District must spend our money according to our values. Our taxpayer dollars should be spent protecting the people who live, work, and raise families here.

This spring, stand with allies from across to DC to speak up for a strong, progressive, and moral DC budget. Together, we’ll ensure that the Council and Mayor invest in what DC needs.

This year, we need your voice more than ever. Join us!

Priority: Don’t shrink the District’s revenue

1. **Put automatic tax cuts on hold for 2018:** Over \$100 million of growing revenues has gone to tax cuts so far. We shouldn’t devote every dollar of newly projected revenue to tax cuts, without giving the Mayor or Council the opportunity to consider other uses. Delaying tax cuts increases the flexibility of our elected leaders’ hands, allowing them to meet emerging needs.
2. **Spend DC’s surplus from FY 2016:** Substantial budget surpluses have pushed the city’s rainy day fund balance from under \$1 billion in 2009 to a record \$2.2 billion in 2015 – one of the healthiest in the nation. Under current policy, DC leaders cannot easily use any year-end surplus to fund critical needs. This policy should change to fund affordable housing, school modernization, or Metro costs, among other priorities.
3. **Create a budget cushion to deal with looming federal cuts:** The DC budget for 2018 will be adopted before federal budget decisions affecting the District are made. DC’s 2018 budget should include a reserve that can be easily accessed to offset unanticipated federal budget cuts.

Priority: Fund affordable housing

1. **\$150 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund** (used to preserve and develop affordable housing)
2. **\$7 million for the Local Rent Supplement Program** (for vouchers or rent subsidies)
3. **\$1.25 million to protect vulnerable tenants from rent increases**, under the Elderly Tenant and Tenant with a Disability Protection Amendment Act (technically: tax abatements or credits for landlords whose tenants are exempt from landlord petitions)

Priority: Fund the Universal Paid Leave Act

1. **\$20 million for startup costs**