

Eugene D. Kinlow Statement

My name is Eugene D. Kinlow and I am a native of Ward 8, a graduate of DC public schools, and have been a community advocate for nearly 30 years. I'm running because I have the vision, leadership, and experience to move us from the distractions of the past and into a strong future. Over time we've forgotten how strong our ward was. We have forgotten the vibrant businesses that once lined our streets, the five and dimes, movie theaters, and sit down restaurants. I believe that by making investments in our people and places ward 8 will be strong again. I believe that we can make Ward 8 a community that is no longer viewed as the last, the lost, or the least but instead prepares our youth for the jobs of the future, gives our adults the skills to take care of their families, protects our seniors and allows them to age in place, and ensures that all our communities are safe.

As a defender of civil rights for the last 20 years, I've sought to protect all D.C. residents in a number of ways. Many know me through my local advocacy as well as my work on common sense issues that extend beyond the District. I worked to enact Smoke Free legislation protecting workers from secondhand smoke in the workplace. I've fought to defend local communities against unwanted incursions that did not make positive contributions to the lives of Ward 8 residents. I am proud of my work to build a coalition in Ward 8 that successfully fought against plans to build a private prison and a trash transfer station in the Ward at a time when we didn't even have a grocery store. As former Chairman of the Ward 8 Democrats I worked to advance diversity issues in my administration in ways never done before. While at D.C. Vote, I worked to preserve and defend the rights of all D.C. residents including those of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. We made a standing commitment to support the Gay Pride street festival and parade celebrating the LGBT community. I first joined Gertrude Stein in 2001, and am extremely proud of my record working with leaders of the LGBT community, the ACLU, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood. I worked with these organizations to prepare and circulate talking points and one pagers that highlighted congressional interference on domestic partnership laws, reproductive health rights, and their limitations on effective programs to decrease HIV transmission.

As councilmember, I pledge to continue my record of fighting for Ward 8, and ensure that we will at all times protect the rights of all residents of the District of Columbia.