

Johns

MARIE



I am Tiara Marshall and I interviewed Marie Johns, candidate for mayor of the District of Columbia at a teen forum at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. I decided to interview her to learn more about her ideas on what she would do if she was elected mayor.

Marie Johns was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 19, 1951. Johns is currently 54 years old but she will soon be 55. She grew up with her sister and mother. During her first year of high school, her family moved to the suburbs in order for her to get a better education and more challenges. In 1979, she earned a B.S in urban studies and political analysis. She also earned a M.S. in management, public policy analysis and budgeting. She attended Harvard University and the University of Virginia studying federal regulations policy and financial management respectively.

Johns began her career as a fiscal analyst in the Indian Legislative Service Agency. Afterwards, she was hired as the employee supervisor for Bell Atlantic Corp. Then she became director and president of the Bell Atlantic Corp. She is currently one of the top five mayoral candidates running to be mayor of Washington, DC.

When I asked my first question on employment and minimum wage to all of the candidates, Marie Johns had the best answer. She wants to make jobs year-round so we can earn money and experience. From that point on, every question that she answered was perfect. And that is why I encourage you to vote for Marie Johns.

RATING

★ = 25%



The Issues

Minimum Wage

On the issue of employment Johns stressed that we have to look as a city to make sure that if people are working hard that they make a livable wage. And in addition to their wage, we also have to make sure that people have affordable housing and a safe place to stay because it all goes together. She went on to say that whatever you make if you can't afford a house on your salary, then it still doesn't do you any good in terms of being able to stay in the District. She promised to work with business to create jobs that pay and houses where people can afford to live.

Clean Up The Anacostia

When I asked her about the environment she stated "I think our city is dirtier than it should be. As mayor, I promise you that I am going to launch a campaign against litter. I want everybody to know that if they litter, we don't want them in our city. We love our city, we want it to be beautiful and we have to respect it. So no to litter and I'm also working with Anacostia Waterfront Corp to make sure that we work with other community groups around the city like the Earth Conversation Core to get everybody involved in cleaning the river. We want our river to be restored to health in time for the baseball stadium and in time for the new homes that are going to be built there as a resource for all of us to enjoy. So that would be very important to me."

Teen Crime

When asked about the issue of crime she said, "For our police officers, I will insist that they go through sensitivity training and they understand that in order to keep their jobs, they have to respect and value all of the citizens in the District. They are sworn to protect all of us, no matter what age, they are protectors. As it related to crime and gangs and so on, the approach that I will use, Tiara, is work with non-profit organizations like Peace-A-Holics. I think that group does a very good job at mediation and working with and stopping the beefs between girl crews and gangs. So I think that the most important thing I can do as mayor is to help organizations like Peace-A-Holics build their capacity so they could work with more organizations for young people.

Affordable Housing

When asked about affordable housing Ms. Johns response was "Well we need to have affordable housing all over the city and what I will do as mayor is make sure that we use all of our federal dollar to help support affordable housing. And I am also going to look to organizations already looking at development in our city like National Capital Revitalization Corp. They work with non-profit developers and with the for-profit community. They know everyone in the community who is involved in

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affordable housing. So, as mayor I will go to them and say, Hey I need your help, I need you to come with an emergency plan for how we can get as much affording housing available in the city as possible. And they are very smart people. They are hard working and I know that they will have a plan for me that we can present to the people and get moving".

Cigarette Taxing

When asked about cigarette taxing Ms. Johns response was, "First of all, I am a business woman so I don't really like the idea of raising taxes. Although if we had to consider raising taxes, I would prefer to raise taxes on something like cigarettes, one of the "Sin Taxes." But we have a 10-billion dollar budget in the District of Columbia. And I think that it is most important for us to learn how to live within our budget, looking how we can save money in certain area in order to fund social service needs the city. I am committed to building rec. centers, libraries, and employment opportunities for young people. As leader of the city, as mayor, it would be my responsibility to figure out how to pay for that.