



## DC Ward 1 Democratic Primary Poll Memo (April 2026)

*From April 27th to April 29th, 2026, the Center for Strategic Politics conducted an English-language survey of 318 likely Democratic voters in Washington DC's Ward 1 using SMS to collect web responses. Respondents outside the sampled population were screened by self-identification and voter file match. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely Democratic primary voters by age, race, and gender. The margin of error is  $\pm 5.48\%$ . This survey was commissioned by Aparna for DC.*

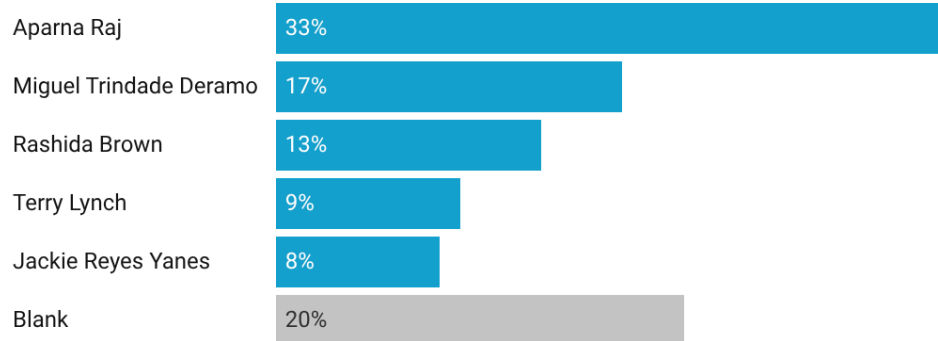
**Less than two months from election day, Aparna Raj has a comfortable lead over her opponents in the race to become Ward 1's next Councilmember.** Starting with a 33% plurality in the first round, she wins 57-43 against Miguel Trinidad Deramo when RCV is applied. New polling from the Center for Strategic Politics goes into depth on the race for council in Ward 1, as well as how Democratic voters feel more broadly.

### Key Takeaways

#### Ranked Choice Ballot

**When respondents are asked to fill out a ranked choice ballot for the Ward 1 Councilmember race, Aparna Raj emerges as the clear frontrunner with 33% of the vote.** However, with 20% of voters completely undecided and 47% ranking other candidates first, the race is by no means decided.

## If the Democratic primary for Ward 1 Council were held today, how would you rank the following candidates? (1st Rank)



SMS-to-web survey of 318 likely Democratic voters in DC Ward 1, conducted 4/27-4/29.  
MOE=±5.48%

Source: Center for Strategic Politics • Created with Datawrapper

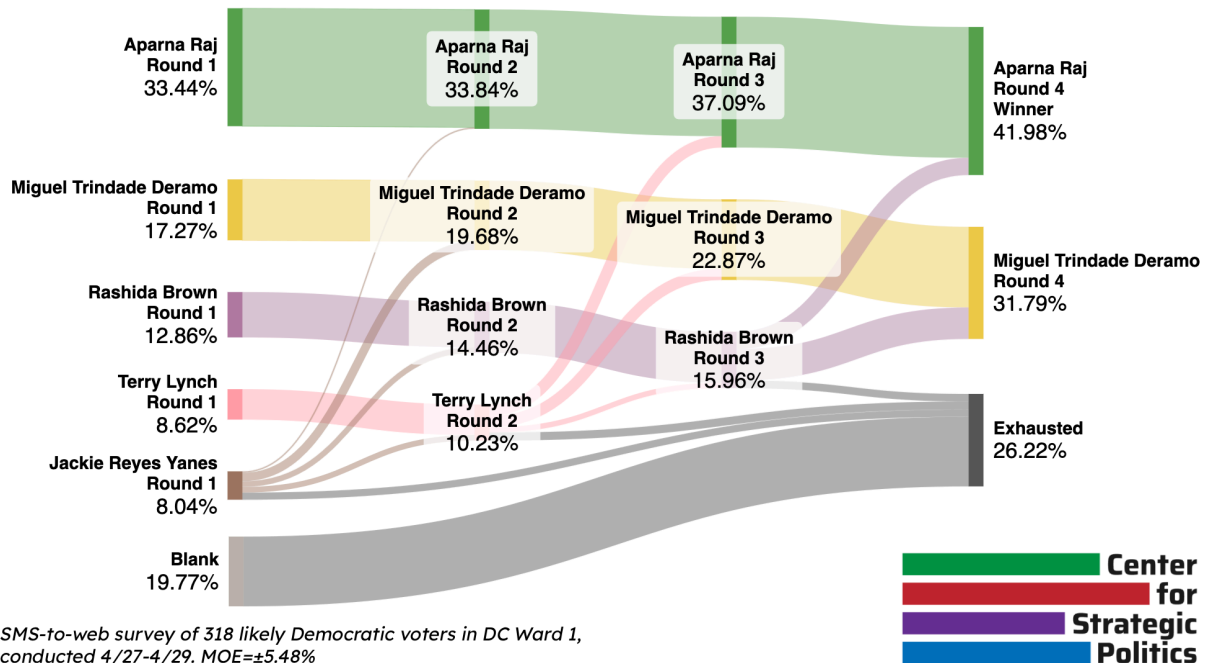
**In an RCV simulation using respondents' full ballots, Aparna Raj beats runner up Miguel Trindade Deramo 57-43.** Raj gains 15 points between rounds 1 and 4, while Trindade Deramo gains 21 points.

DC Ward 1 Councilmember Democratic Primary RCV		Center for Strategic Politics			
DC Ward 1 Likely Democratic Voters (Excluding 19.8% Blank/Undecided) n=318, MOE=±5.48%, 4/27-29, SMS-to-Web					
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	
<b>Aparna Raj</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>57%</b>	
<b>Miguel Trindade Deramo</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>43%</b>	
<b>Rashida Brown</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>		
<b>Terry Lynch</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>			
<b>Jackie Reyes Yanes</b>	<b>10%</b>				

Trinidad Deramo's relative RCV advantage over Raj is caused by two factors:

1. Very few votes flow from Jackie Reyes Yanes to Aparna Raj in round 2.
2. 56% of Rashida Brown's votes in round 3 flow to Miguel Trindade Deramo, while only 31% flow to Aparna Raj.

However, Raj’s sizable lead in round 1, as well as a still sizable number of votes flowing to her from Lynch and Brown in subsequent rounds, leave her with a healthy margin of victory over Trinidad Deramo.



## Cross-Endorsement

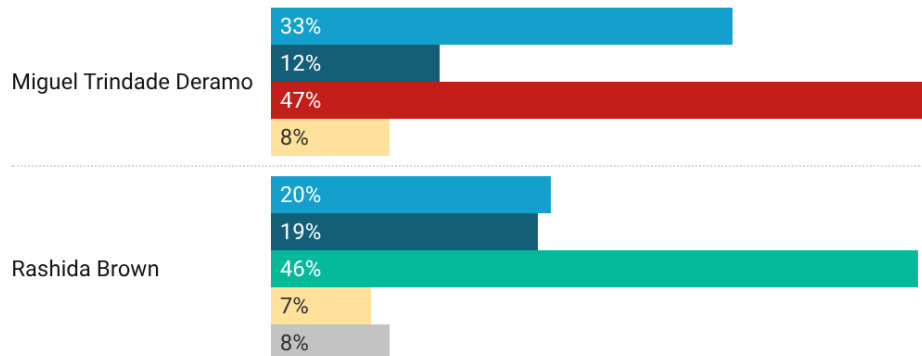
On April 23rd, Miguel Trindade Deramo and Rashida Brown announced a widely-publicized cross-endorsement, asking their supporters to rank the other candidate second on their ballots. While Trinidad Deramo and Brown do receive a plurality of each other’s second ranks, a majority still go to other candidates or are exhausted. **Notably, 33% of Trinidad Deramo and 20% of Brown voters rank Aparna Raj (their presumptive opponent in the final round of ranked-choice tabulation) second.**

## How effective is the Brown / Trinidad Deramo cross-endorsement?

If the Democratic primary for Ward 1 Council were held today, how would you rank the following candidates?

**Groups:** 1st Rank **Bars:** 2nd Rank

■ Aparna Raj 
 ■ Jackie Reyes Yanes 
 ■ Miguel Trindade Deramo 
 ■ Rashida Brown  
■ Terry Lynch 
 ■ Blank



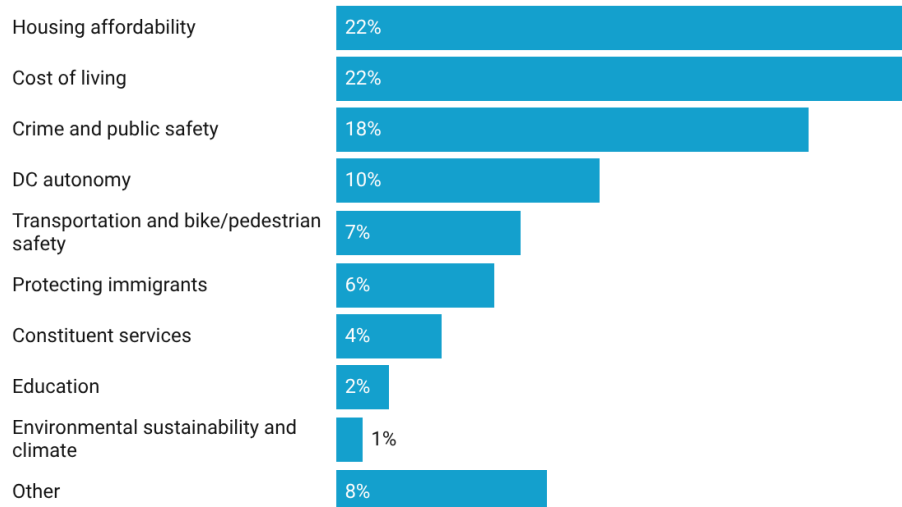
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Source: Center for Strategic Politics • Created with Datawrapper

## Issues

Ward 1 voters are heavily divided over which issue they view as most important. **Unsurprisingly, housing affordability (22%), cost of living (22%), and crime & public safety (18%) take the top three spots.**

### In your opinion, which of the following is the MOST important issue facing Ward 1 and the District today?



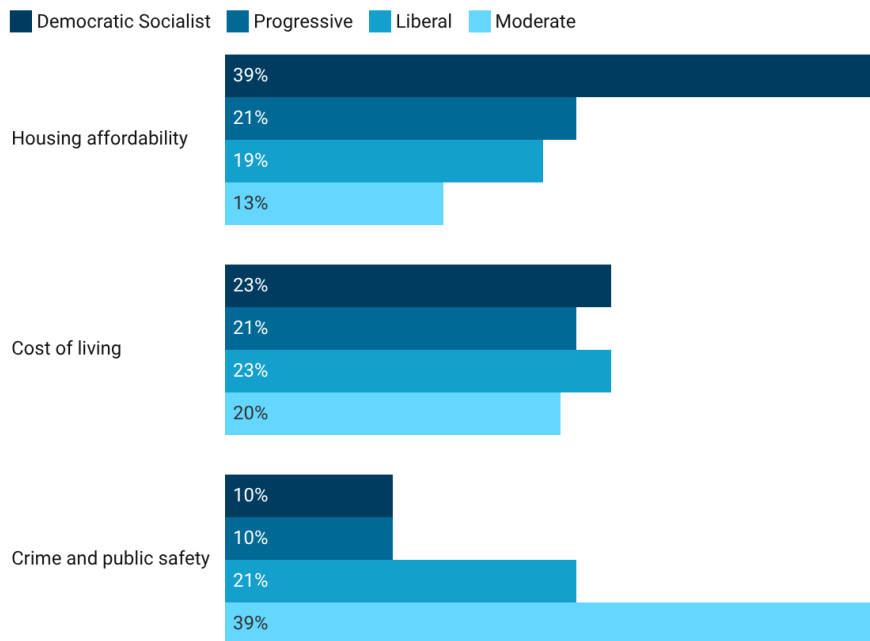
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However, the ideological makeup of support for those issues varies wildly. A large plurality of self-identified democratic socialists pick housing affordability as their top issue, while only a small percentage of moderates do the same. Crime & public safety reverses this, with almost 40% of moderates and only 10% of democratic socialists choosing the issue. Of these three, only cost of living is chosen by an equal proportion of democratic socialists, progressives, liberals, and moderates.

### In your opinion, which of the following is the MOST important issue facing Ward 1 and the District today?

Top 3 issues by % of respondents with ideology who selected each as their top issue

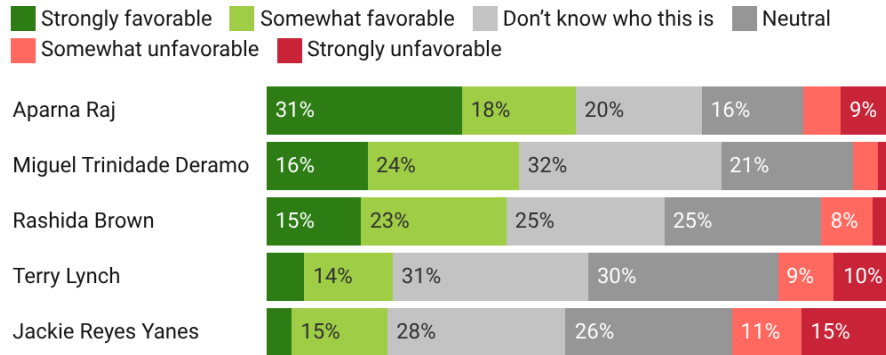


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### Favorability and Approval Ratings

Aparna Raj is the most well-known candidate, with 36% of respondents indicating they either don't know who she is or have a neutral opinion. That number rises to over 50% for Trinidad Deramo and Brown, and to over 60% for Reyes Yanes and Lynch. Raj also enjoys the highest net favorability of the field at +33, compared to Trinidad Deramo (+32), Brown (+27), Lynch (+3), and Reyes Yanes (-8).

## Ward 1 Candidate Favorability

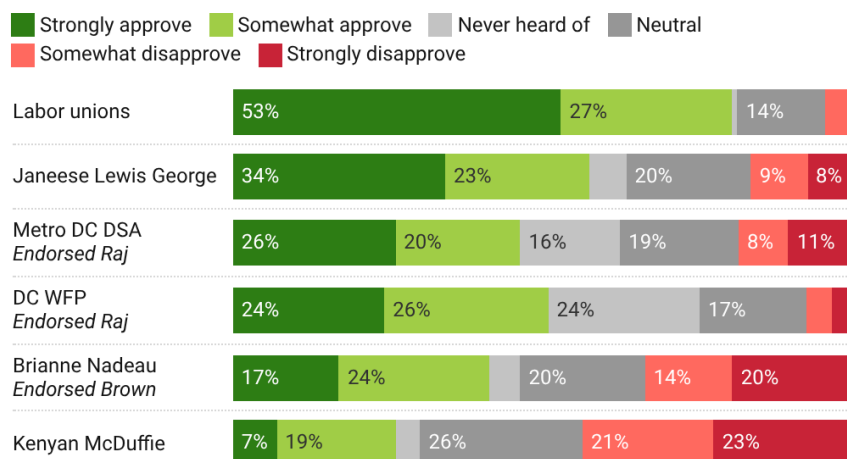


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Ward 1 Democrats can broadly agree on one thing: labor unions, which enjoy a +74 net approval rating. Metro DC DSA (+27), and DC WFP (+42), both of whom have endorsed Aparna Raj, also enjoy high approval ratings in the ward. The current Councilmember, Brianne Nadeau, doesn't fare as well, with a net approval rating of only +8. Nadeau has endorsed Rashida Brown for Council. The lowest approval rating by far goes to mayoral candidate Kenyan McDuffie, who is underwater at -18 (compare to his opponent Janeese Lewish George at +40).

## Ward 1 Organization & Official/Candidate Approval Ratings



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The full poll, including crosstabs, is available [here](#).

The Center for Strategic Politics is where ideas shape the future of governance, analysis, and critical discourse.

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