

## Revitalizing and Reimagining the DMV after COVID-19 Event Series

# How Statehood Could Increase Equity for the People of DC

### Speaker Biographies

**Chris Myers Asch** is a Washington, DC, native who teaches history at Colby College and runs the Capital Area New Mainers Project, which helps immigrants and refugees adjust to life in central Maine. He is the coauthor (with George Derek Musgrove) of *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* and the author of *The Senator and the Sharecropper: The Freedom Struggles of James O. Eastland and Fannie Lou Hamer*.

**Johnny Barnes** is the former executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union for the National Capital Area, where he led several successful efforts to resist the proliferation of video surveillance cameras in DC; fight against proposed warrantless searches by DC police; stand up against unconstitutional police checkpoints in the Trinidad neighborhood; and push back against the Secure Communities program on behalf of DC's immigrant population. He also spent more than 25 years in various congressional staff positions, including chief of staff for three members of Congress, and has taught law and college courses at DC-area schools and practiced law in DC and the Virgin Islands. Other related experience includes appointments as the first male member of the DC Commission for Women; as a member of the DC Commission on Residential Mortgage Investment, an entity that tackled redlining and mortgage loan discrimination; as a member of the DC Commission on Human Rights; and as an attorney on a special task force that addressed ill treatment of small and minority farmers by the Reagan and Bush administrations and discrimination by rural loan officers.

**Bo Shuff** serves as the executive director for DC Vote, having been promoted from director of advocacy in June 2017. Shuff has spent the last 20 years on the front lines of both electoral and advocacy politics. From being a member of the Gore election team in Florida in 2000 to being on the staff of Human Rights Campaign during the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision through the federal marriage amendment in 2006, Shuff somehow finds himself engaged in some of the most significant political moments. In addition to his organizational advocacy work, his electoral efforts have led to a progressive majority in the Washington State Senate and the election of Mayor Muriel Bowser, when he served as her campaign manager. Shuff joined DC Vote in 2016 with an eye toward achieving full equality for the residents of the 51st state, Washington, DC.

**Peter A. Tatian** is a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and research director for Urban–Greater DC. He is an expert on US housing policy, particularly housing assistance and affordable housing preservation. He advises nonprofits on performance management and evaluation and heads Urban's work providing technical assistance on data collection and use to grantees of the US Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods initiative. Tatian directed the evaluation of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program, which has provided counseling services to more than 1 million troubled homeowners. He has also studied the impacts of public and supportive housing on neighborhoods and worked on housing policy

reform in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Tatian is a member of the DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation advisory committee, the Park Morton New Communities Initiative steering committee, and the United Planning Organization community reinvestment advisory council.

**Erica Williams** is the executive director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute (DCFPI). She brings nearly two decades of experience in pursuing racial, gender, and economic justice through public policy and deep knowledge of how fiscal and economic policies can advance or impede justice. Before joining DCFPI, Williams was vice president for state fiscal policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In this role, she helped lead the organization and its 40-person State Fiscal Policy division and supported and shaped the efforts of the State Priorities Partnership, a network of more than 40 state-level fiscal and economic policy shops (including DCFPI) working to reduce poverty and inequality and advance equity and opportunity. In addition to overseeing state tax and budget analyses, Williams oversaw and grew equity-focused policy initiatives on state earned income tax credits, poverty reduction, and immigration. She also spearheaded a major effort to deepen the equity and inclusion focus of the State Priorities Partnership team and partnership as a whole. Williams holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and Spanish studies from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in international policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.