

Revitalizing and Reimagining the DMV after COVID-19

Cancelling Rent and Promoting Housing Stability in Greater DC

Speaker Biographies

Mychal Cohen is a research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on affordable housing, neighborhood initiatives, and community development. Before joining Urban, Cohen was a policy and development associate at the National Housing Trust, where his work focused on state and local preservation of affordable housing, especially through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Cohen holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

Monique King-Viehland is the director of state and local housing policy at the Urban Institute. She leads efforts to catalyze Urban's vast housing policy expertise into actionable strategies for, and with, state and local housing leaders. Her portfolio extends across Urban, encompassing housing policy areas from homelessness and affordable housing to zoning reform, homeownership, and housing finance. King-Viehland previously served as executive director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), where she oversaw 580 employees and a \$600 million budget. The first woman and African American to take the helm of the 40-year-old agency, King-Viehland led the agency through significant transformation, including the merger of the Community Development Commission and housing authority into one unified agency. She enhanced LACDA's efforts to fight the homelessness and affordability crises, including helping secure a 10-fold increase in the number of funded affordable and supportive units and increasing project-based rental voucher commitments by more than 100 percent while providing housing and housing assistance to hundreds of thousands annually. In 2019, she was recognized as an LA power woman by Bisnow. King-Viehland has 20 years of experience in housing, community, and economic development. She is a member of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness and a member of the policy advisory committee for the California Roadmap HOME 2030 initiative. She graduated with honors from Smith College and has a master's degree in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Citlalli Velasquez is a tenant organizer with the Latino Economic Development Center, organizing working-class tenants of color in DC to challenge landlord abuse and displacement. She helps tenants harness their collective power to guarantee safe and secure housing

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins proudly represents the 20th Legislative District in the Maryland House of Delegates. Wilkins is dedicated to policy change that makes a difference in people's lives. Serving as the parliamentarian of the Maryland House of Delegates, she is responsible for upholding efficient, fair, and orderly procedures. She also previously served as chair of the Montgomery County House Democratic Caucus. Wilkins has championed and successfully passed legislation dealing with racial profiling and justice reform, maternal health, and improved educational outcomes for all students. She works full time as the director of state and local government affairs at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights coalition. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in public administration social policy from American University.