

Reimagining Public Safety: A Restorative and Systemic Framework for Youth Autonomy and Wealth Redistribution in the District of Columbia

The rising involvement of young people in violent incidents within the District of Columbia is a direct symptom of compounding structural inequities, generational disinvestment, and systemic economic exclusion. Between 2019 and 2023, the juvenile share of violent crime arrests in the District escalated from 28% to 36%, heavily clustering within historically disenfranchised communities east of the Anacostia River, where child poverty rates routinely exceed 30%. Traditional municipal responses have relied on reactionary, punitive measures such as juvenile curfews, surveillance, and police expansion. These interventions do not address the root causes of community distress, worsen racial disparities in the legal system, and erode public trust. This framework presents an alternative paradigm centered on restorative justice, educational equity, and community-led violence interruption, funded entirely through progressive tax reforms that shift the financial burden from working-class families to wealthy, non-resident-owned corporations. By investing in the material security of young people and cultivating spaces for collective care, this model establishes a pathway to sustainable safety and community self-determination.

The Crisis of the Carceral Paradigm: Root Causes and Systemic Failures

The escalation of youth involvement in violent crime within the District of Columbia is not an isolated phenomenon, but rather the predictable output of a socio-economic system organized around municipal austerity and racialized capital extraction. Deep geographic concentrations of deprivation define the District's physical landscape. Wards 7 and 8 contend with child poverty rates exceeding 30%, which directly correlates with the geographic clustering of juvenile arrests. Crucially, nearly two-thirds of juvenile arrests—and 75% of violent juvenile arrests—occur outside the youth's home ward. This geographic dispersion exposes the limits of hyper-localized, neighborhood-specific policing strategies and demonstrates that youth mobility is intimately tied to a broader search for safety, belonging, and economic opportunity across the city. For decades, the District's political establishment has responded to public safety crises

through the expansion of the carceral state. This approach is exemplified by the persistent imposition of emergency and permanent juvenile curfews, which restrict youth gathering in designated commercial zones. Extensive empirical data demonstrates that curfews are an ineffective tool for crime reduction. A comprehensive Department of Justice meta-analysis concluded that juvenile curfews yield no statistically significant impact on youth crime rates. In some jurisdictions, the aggressive enforcement of curfews has produced a net-widening effect that funnels vulnerable youth into the legal system for non-violent behavior. In Baltimore, the implementation of a stricter curfew was followed by a relative rise in juvenile arrests and yielded no measurable academic benefits. In the District, empirical evaluations have linked night curfews to unexpected increases in gunfire reports during transition hours, as the sudden removal of civilian presence on the streets eliminates natural deterrents. Beyond their empirical inefficacy, curfews and discretionary street stops function as mechanisms of racialized surveillance that disproportionately target Black and brown youth. This reality was starkly illuminated by the legal battle led by Black Lives Matter D.C., the Stop Police Terror Project D.C., and the ACLU of D.C.. For three years following the unanimous passage of the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act of 2016, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) actively refused to comply with the law's mandatory stop-and-frisk data collection requirements. The District executive repeatedly claimed the law was "fully implemented" while MPD officers continued to conduct undocumented, racially biased searches in communities of color. When a 2018 lawsuit finally forced the release of preliminary data in 2019, the findings confirmed what Black residents had long experienced: stop-and-frisk tactics were overwhelmingly directed at African Americans. This systemic criminalization of Black youth is especially pronounced within the public school system. School-based arrests in the District are heavily concentrated in a small number of under-resourced schools, with 100% of these arrests involving students of color. Black girls are arrested at a rate 30 times that of white youth, with over 60% of arrested girls being under the age of 15. Furthermore, students with disabilities represent 31% of all school-based arrests, demonstrating how the carceral state penalizes behavioral manifestations of trauma and neurodivergence rather than providing restorative support. Traditional legislative reforms, such as the NEAR Act, have failed to disrupt this school-to-prison pipeline because they lack structural accountability and consistent funding. Despite its public health rhetoric, the NEAR Act's implementation stalled as the District executive repeatedly diverted its funding to cover core classroom staff, leaving its violence interruption and restorative justice initiatives under-resourced. This pattern of passing progressive legislation while leaving the underlying funding mechanisms vulnerable to executive extraction demonstrates that symbolic reforms cannot secure community safety. True safety requires a complete departure from carceral logic, replaced by community-controlled institutions, educational justice, and a dedicated, non-discretionary funding stream.

Ideological Divergences: A Critique of the Dominant Candidate Platforms

The current mayoral race presents the electorate with two competing public safety models, both of which ultimately fail to escape the gravity of the carceral state. A rigorous analysis of these platforms, conducted without naming the candidates, reveals how both models rely on compromises that protect commercial capital and police budgets at the expense of working-class Black communities.

The first platform, advanced by a prominent Ward 4 Councilmember and former juvenile prosecutor, utilizes progressive, "people-first" language but maintains a contradictory commitment to carceral expansion. This candidate proposes a network of "Community Hubs" to centralize social services and promises universal after-school programs. However, in a significant concession to moderate voters and business interests, the candidate actively supports the executive's push to expand MPD's active force to 4,000 officers, up from the current level of approximately 3,200. The justification offered for this expansion—that hiring more officers will reduce the city's multi-million-dollar police overtime expenditures—is economically and socially flawed. Funneling municipal revenue into expanding the police force starves the safety net and reinforces a system that disproportionately targets Black and working-class residents. This reformist-carceral compromise attempts to address the symptoms of systemic violence while preserving the punitive institutions that exacerbate them.

The second platform, championed by an At-Large Councilmember and former Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, relies on a record of legislative leadership that is undermined by a history of unfunded mandates and conservative public safety compromises. While this candidate takes credit for authoring the NEAR Act of 2016, the legislation was left vulnerable to executive budget cuts and went largely unimplemented during critical periods. Furthermore, during recent legislative sessions, this candidate supported the permanent extension of the emergency juvenile curfew. This position aligns with predatory policing strategies that target young people in business districts to protect commercial real estate, rather than addressing the material deprivation that drives youth delinquency. This candidate also opposes progressive revenue-raising measures, such as the Business Activity Tax, preferring to rely on regressive local sales taxes or unpredictable federal grants. This resistance to progressive taxation leaves public safety programs dependent on the whims of the executive and the corporate lobby. The proposed framework is superior to both candidate platforms because it rejects the carceral state and is built on a foundation of economic justice, community self-determination, and robust, progressive financing. Rather than expanding the police force or criminalizing youth through curfews, this plan reallocates resources from ineffective law enforcement overtime toward community-governed public safety alternatives. By establishing a

dedicated, progressive tax structure, this framework ensures that violence interruption, youth mentorship, and educational stabilization programs are permanently insulated from executive budget cuts.

Policy Dimension	Proposed Safety and Autonomy Framework	The Progressive Reformist Model (Ward 4 Councilmember Platform)	The Moderate-Legislative Model (At-Large Councilmember Platform)
Public Safety Philosophy	Restorative justice, community-controlled safety, and economic security.	Multilayered public health rhetoric backed by active police force expansion.	Incremental legislative reform, regulatory task forces, and supportive services.
Stance on Juvenile Curfews	Complete opposition; curfews criminalize Black youth and fail to reduce crime.	Consistent opposition to curfew extension and enforcement.	Active support for temporary and permanent youth curfew extensions.
Metropolitan Police Policy	Restructuring of MPD duties, elimination of non-violent responses, and reduction of overtime.	Support for expanding the active police force to 4,000 officers.	Traditional community policing, recruitment, and police-led mentoring.
Funding Strategy	Permanently funded via the Business Activity Tax and progressive capital gains surcharges.	Conceptually progressive but lacks a concrete, progressive revenue model.	Reliance on executive budget allocations and federal grants; history of unfunded mandates.
Youth Governance	Binding,	Symbolic youth	Traditional

Model	democratically elected Youth Governing Council with veto power over resources.	advisory boards without statutory budgetary control.	vocational training pipeline models without direct governance power.
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The Proposed Safety and Autonomy Model: Community Control and Restorative Alternatives

Educational Stabilization and By-Right Neighborhood Schools

A comprehensive municipal safety strategy must begin by addressing the deep economic crises within the District’s public education system. For years, the District executive has bypassed the Schools First in Budgeting Act, which legally mandates that school funding remain stabilized above prior-year levels. By failing to apply this model consistently, the executive has forced budget cuts on neighborhood schools, particularly in Wards 5, 7, and 8. These cuts, compounded by the expiration of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, have occurred even as average teacher salaries rose by 16% to \$133,722. As school budgets fail to keep pace with rising labor costs, principals are forced to lay off critical, non-allocated staff, such as counselors, librarians, and social-emotional coordinators. This dynamic triggers a "death spiral" for neighborhood schools: funding cuts lead to a decline in program quality, which drives enrollment drops, resulting in further resource extraction. To disrupt this cycle, the proposed plan implements a supplemental small school weight within the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF). This weight provides a permanent funding stabilization buffer for small, by-right neighborhood schools that face enrollment fluctuations, ensuring they can retain full-time counselors, specialized educators, and after-school coordinators. This formulaic adjustment is paired with a targeted educator retention fund, which provides salary bonuses and housing stipends for teachers in Wards 7 and 8, where teacher retention rates hover at 74% compared to 87% in wealthier wards. Preventing Corporate Educational Collapse: Public Charter Accountability

In a system that relies heavily on choice-based educational policies, working-class families have repeatedly borne the brunt of sudden, destabilizing charter school collapses. This crisis was laid bare in August 2024 when the Board of Eagle Academy Public Charter School abruptly surrendered its charter just one week before the academic year began, displacing 362 students and leaving educators unemployed without warning. Similar closures, including I Dream Public Charter School in Southeast and Hope Community Public Charter School’s Tolson Campus in

Northeast, have fractured communities and disrupted academic progress for families who have been historically pushed out of municipal priorities. These collapses are not natural market corrections; they are the direct result of governance and financial oversight failures.

To protect our children and ensure public resources are managed with strict democratic accountability, this framework fully funds and implements the **Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025** (D.C. Law 26-38). Under this plan, the Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), in collaboration with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), will administer a mandatory, no-cost training program for all public charter school trustees. Moving beyond symbolic oversight, this training will legally require all volunteer trustees to complete comprehensive coursework within 182 days of election or appointment, with mandatory biennial refreshers. The curriculum will cover:

1. **Strict Fiscal Management and Audit Oversight:** Training trustees to detect structural financial deficits, prevent unauthorized diversions of assets, and monitor long-term viability.
2. **Open Meetings Act Compliance:** Guaranteeing that all board discussions regarding school closures, mergers, or financial crises are conducted with full public transparency, ending backroom decisions that leave families stranded.
3. **Academic and Special Education Compliance:** Ensuring boards actively protect student rights and adhere to federal and local special education mandates.

By establishing these rigid educational and administrative guardrails, the District will prevent sudden collapses, stabilize the charter school sector, and protect the educational continuity that Black and working-class families deserve.

Systemic Justice for Special Needs Students: Funding St. Coletta of Greater Washington

For decades, the political establishment has paid lip service to disability rights while systemically underfunding special education infrastructure east of the Anacostia River. This neglect is most glaringly evident at St. Coletta of Greater Washington, located on Independence Avenue SE. As a dedicated level-four special education school, St. Coletta serves some of our most vulnerable high-needs students, many of whom require intensive one-on-one attention, speech therapy, full-time nursing, and customized physical spaces to fulfill their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Despite a dedicated municipal task force recommending that St. Coletta requires an additional wing to support these high-needs students, successive mayoral budgets have completely ignored this capital proposal. Compounding this capital neglect, the expiration of past municipal budget supplements has left the school facing a critical \$2.6 million operating deficit, jeopardizing essential, non-optional student services.

To secure true special education justice, our framework establishes a dedicated **St. Coletta Capital and Deficit Fund** funded entirely by our progressive tax model. This initiative will:

1. **Construct the Specialized Special Education Wing:** Allocate immediate capital funding to construct the task force-recommended school wing at the Southeast campus, expanding state-of-the-art classroom and therapeutic spaces tailored for high-needs students.
2. **Eliminate the Operating Deficit:** Provide an immediate \$2.6 million supplemental allocation to completely wipe out the school's operational deficit, ensuring no student loses access to full-time aides, nurses, or therapists.
3. **Implement Level 5 UPSFF Funding:** Establish a permanent **Level 5 weight within the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF)** beginning in FY27. This formulaic shift will legally codify adequate per-student funding for level-four special education public charter and public schools, permanently insulating these non-optional services from executive budget cuts and political whims.

Dismantling the Administrative Barrier: Centralized Out-of-School Time (OST) Portal

While affluent families easily navigate private after-school enrichment, working-class parents face a highly fragmented, frustrating, and inequitable bureaucratic web when trying to access municipal out-of-school time (OST) programs. In testimony before the DC Council Committee on Facilities, parent advocates highlighted how navigating separate portals, disconnected applications, varying age limits, and fragmented schedules across different agencies (such as the Department of Parks and Recreation and DC Public Schools) creates an exhausting "time tax". This administrative burden disproportionately impacts single-parent households and working-class families who lack the time or digital resources to manage these hurdles, frequently forcing them to give up on enrichment opportunities entirely. This framework resolves this systemic inequity by launching a **Centralized Municipal Out-of-School Time Portal**. Developed as a single, low-barrier point of access, this web-based portal will unify and streamline the entire out-of-school ecosystem in the District. The portal will feature:

1. **A Unified, Universal Application:** Allowing parents to apply for multiple publicly funded, charter, and community-run after-school, weekend, and summer enrichment programs with a single, simplified form.
2. **Real-Time Neighborhood Matching:** Bridging informational gaps by instantly matching youth to programs with available slots in their specific ward, prioritizing families in Wards 5, 7, and 8.
3. **Socio-Economic Integration and Equity Filters:** Streamlining applications for subsidized placements, ensuring that low-income children are fast-tracked into high-

quality STEM, arts, and sports programs during the peak crime hours of 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

By transitioning from a fragmented, choice-based administration to a unified municipal cooperative portal, we eliminate the systemic barriers that restrict working-class youth from accessing spaces of safety and growth.

Expanding Physical Footprints and Program Capacity East of the River

To ensure that streamlining enrollment through a digital portal does not merely distribute an inadequate number of opportunities, this framework directly addresses the underlying physical capacity and neighborhood distribution of out-of-school program slots. Historically, underfunded neighborhoods in Wards 5, 7, and 8 have suffered from a severe deficit of physical recreational and mentorship spaces, rendering administrative software ineffective without a corresponding expansion of the physical programmatic footprint. To resolve this, our plan fully funds and implements the Expanding Community Access to Safe and Clean Recreational Space Act of 2025. This initiative mandates that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) establish structured partnerships with District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to unlock existing school-based recreational facilities—including gyms, courts, and athletic fields—for public use during evenings and weekends. Crucially, to prevent adding an unfair operational burden on school administrators, DPR will directly fund and deploy dedicated security and custodial personnel to these sites during non-school hours, establishing at least one fully staffed community recreation site in every ward. Concurrently, we will fund the Teen Center Establishment Amendment Act of 2025 to construct and operate standalone, comprehensive teen centers across the quadrants, prioritizing historically disinvested neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. By expanding the physical footprint of these safe, enriching spaces independent of standard school facilities, the District will provide a permanent sanctuary for youth during peak late-afternoon and weekend hours. Under the leadership of the Council's Committee on Facilities, these capital expansions will be structurally funded in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, ensuring that physical capacity matches the high demand in working-class communities.

Professionalizing Route Commutes: Safe Passage Training and School Engagement

During daily school commutes, too many young people experience victimization, harassment, and an extreme loss of security. Over half of surveyed students report feeling uncomfortable, concerned, or in danger while traveling to and from school, particularly when navigating major transit hubs like the Anacostia Metro station. While the District executive boasts of fully funding the Safe Passage program with \$9.2 million across 12 priority areas, public oversight hearings have revealed massive operational failures. Students and parents have testified that Safe Passage Ambassadors—hired by community-based organizations—frequently fail to show up, remain disengaged, or lack the fundamental training required to de-escalate conflicts among youth. This proposal addresses these failures by fully funding and implementing the **Safe Passage Training and School Engagement Amendment Act of 2025** (D.C. Law 26-40), allocating \$321,000 in its initial year and \$1.32 million over the financial plan. This legislative action will:

1. **Mandate Standardized, Paid Annual Training:** Legally require all Safe Passage Ambassadors to complete 56 hours of specialized annual training developed with OSSE. Ambassadors will be paid their \$23.50 per hour baseline wage during these sessions. The curriculum includes quarterly bystander intervention, conflict resolution, racial and gender implicit bias, cultural competency, and trauma-informed care for neurodivergence and special needs.
2. **Enforce Structural Communication and Data-Sharing:** Mandate twice-annual, formal coordination meetings between Safe Passage and Safe Blocks personnel with school administrators to align real-time safety data.
3. **Deploy the Safe Transit Municipal Bus Pilot:** In response to parents who rightfully note that children are highly vulnerable on public transportation, this plan establishes a dedicated municipal school bus pilot in Wards 7 and 8. This pilot will transport elementary and middle school students directly from their neighborhoods to school doors, bypassing dangerous transit corridors and protecting them from adult solicitation or community violence.

Protecting the Protectors: Labor Rights, Mental Health, and Physical Safety for Safe Passage Ambassadors

While D.C. Law 26-40 represents a vital operational correction by securing a \$23.50 per hour wage baseline and legislating 56 hours of mandatory, paid annual training, a critical systemic gap remains unaddressed: the physical safety and psychological well-being of the Safe Passage Ambassadors themselves. These workers—disproportionately working-class Black

and brown residents—are routinely stationed directly inside violent hotspots and high-injury transit hubs to shield youth. Because these ambassadors are hired through community-based organizations (CBOs) like the National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens (NAARC) and Collaborative Solutions for Communities rather than being directly integrated into municipal agency infrastructures, they are excluded from formal municipal employee protections. This reliance on subcontracted, precarious labor without an adequate safety net raises serious concerns regarding public liability, worker safety, and secondary traumatic stress.

To resolve this labor and care crisis, our framework establishes a **Safe Passage Workers' Care and Safety Covenant**, fully funded through our progressive revenue model. This initiative will:

1. **Establish Post-Incident Trauma Support and Paid Mental Health Leave:** Create a dedicated *Ambassador Wellness and Trauma Recovery Fund* to provide immediate, low-barrier secondary traumatic stress counseling for ambassadors who witness or intervene in community violence. If an ambassador experiences or de-escalates a traumatic event, they will be guaranteed up to 10 days of fully paid trauma-recovery leave, with the municipal fund directly reimbursing the employing CBO to prevent financial strain.
2. **Codify Physical Protection and Rapid-Response Protocols:** Stationing unarmed community members on violent street corners without a defense network is unacceptable. Safe Passage routes will be equipped with specialized, secure communication systems linked directly to unarmed, non-police community crisis response teams, ensuring ambassadors can instantly summon de-escalation and safety backup when a situation escalates beyond peaceful mediation.
3. **Establish a Municipal Indemnification and Workers' Compensation Fund:** To protect partnering CBOs from catastrophic liability and ensure that caregivers are never left without medical support, the District will establish a centralized municipal indemnification fund. This fund will guarantee comprehensive workers' compensation, medical coverage, and disability benefits for any Safe Passage worker injured in the line of duty, elevating their labor protections to match municipal public service standards.

Decentralized Violence Interruption and Survivor Care

The current structure of violence interruption in the District suffers from fragmentation and administrative overreach. The District Council's consolidation of violence interruption programs within the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE)—which eliminated the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) independent "Cure the Streets" program—has sparked concern among grassroots organizers. The OAG's "Cure the Streets" model had established deep networks of trust in six key neighborhoods. Consolidating these services under ONSE risks diluting their efficacy, as the agency struggles with administrative capacity and uneven

community trust. Rather than relying on top-down, centralized mayoral control, the District must transition to a decentralized network of community-governed safety cooperatives. Furthermore, this plan addresses a critical gap identified by restorative justice experts: the lack of direct support for the victims of community violence, which fuels cycles of retaliatory harm. To break this cycle, this plan establishes a Low-Barrier Emergency Cash Assistance Fund for crime survivors and their families, modeled after successful initiatives in Chicago. This fund, administered by culturally specific community-based organizations rather than law enforcement, will bypass traditional police cooperation requirements. It will provide immediate financial resources to survivors to cover emergency medical costs, mental health counseling, relocation expenses, and lost wages, stabilizing families in the aftermath of violence and preventing retaliatory escalations.

Youth Governance and Democratic Power

True community safety cannot be achieved through paternalistic, top-down enforcement that treats young people as potential liabilities rather than active citizens. This plan replaces symbolic youth advisory boards with genuine political power by establishing a democratically elected Youth Governing Council. This council, composed of youth representatives aged 14 to 21 from every ward, will hold final, non-advisory authority over municipal youth resources. The council will govern a newly codified Youth Self-Determination Fund, with direct veto power over spending, hiring, and programming priorities for recreation centers and out-of-school-time initiatives. By shifting structural power directly to young people, the District will dismantle the carceral policies that have historically defined municipal youth administration.

Protecting Communities from Federal Overreach and Surveillance State Tactics

A truly progressive public safety framework must protect local communities from the threat of federal overreach and surveillance state tactics. During the transition of federal administrations, the presence of unaccountable federal law enforcement agents in the District poses a direct risk to Black, brown, and immigrant youth. While moderate candidates argue that partnerships with federal agencies like the FBI or ICE are necessary to reduce gun violence, these entities operate outside local oversight and often worsen community trauma. This plan strengthens the Sanctuary Values Act by closing the loophole that allows the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to collaborate with federal immigration enforcement or participate in joint federal task forces for non-violent community matters. Concurrently, the plan bans predictive policing and facial-recognition technologies in public spaces. These tools are often presented as "objective," but are built on biased historical arrest data that perpetuates racial disparities. Rather than

funneling municipal revenue into biometric surveillance, this framework invests in non-police crisis response teams. These unarmed teams, composed of mental health clinicians and peer specialists, will handle non-violent calls, such as mental health crises, substance-use responses, and disputes among unhoused residents. This transition removes police from non-violent matters, reduces hostile encounters, and preserves resources for community care.

Financing the Cooperative Safety Net: Progressive Revenue and Wealth Redistribution

The primary vulnerability of progressive municipal legislation is the "subject-to-funding" loophole, which allows the District executive and conservative council members to pass laws but deny them funding during the annual budget process. This plan addresses this issue by presenting a comprehensive, self-funding financial model backed by progressive tax reforms. The entire 5-year, \$145 million incremental budget for this framework will be generated by closing tax loopholes that protect wealthy, non-resident-owned corporations and real estate interests. The cornerstone of this funding strategy is the implementation of a 2.0% **Business Activity Tax (BAT)**. Because of a historical federal restriction under the Home Rule Act, the District is prohibited from taxing the personal income of non-residents who work in the city. As a result, unincorporated professional services firms—including elite lobbying firms, corporate consultancies, and commercial law partnerships located in Wards 2 and 4—operate with a loophole. Their wealthy, non-resident partners draw millions in profits from the District's economy while paying zero franchise or business taxes to the city. The BAT resolves this inequity by functioning as a broad-based, low-rate value-added tax on the economic activity of all for-profit firms within the District. It is calculated using a simple formula :

$$\text{Tax Liability} = 2.0\% \times (\text{Gross Receipts} - \text{Business Purchases} - \text{Rent} - \text{Capital Expenditures} - 200000)$$

To protect local, working-class, and minority-owned small businesses, the BAT incorporates a \$200,000 standard deduction, adjusting annually for inflation. Crucially, the BAT is structured as a dollar-for-dollar credit against the District's existing corporate franchise and unincorporated business taxes. This means that local businesses already paying their fair share of franchise taxes will see zero tax increases. The tax falls exclusively on multinational corporations and high-powered professional partnerships that currently exploit the non-resident loophole. Economists and the D.C. Tax Revision Commission estimate that a 2.0% BAT will generate **\$500 million in new revenue annually**.

This progressive tax strategy is augmented by three additional revenue-generating measures:

1. **Progressive Capital Gains Surcharge:** A progressively tiered surcharge of 1%, 2%, and 3% is established on capital gains for tax units with an adjusted gross income (AGI) and capital gains above \$500,000. This measure, affecting only the top 1.85% of wealthiest taxpayers, will generate **\$123 million annually**.
2. **Elimination of the Stepped-Up Basis:** By ending the tax loophole that allows inherited appreciated assets to escape capital gains taxation upon death, the District will raise **\$43.7 million annually**.
3. **Decoupling from Federal Tax Cuts:** The District will permanently decouple its tax code from the federal 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' (OBBBA) tax cuts. Conformity to these federal cuts would drain up to \$690 million from local revenues to benefit the wealthiest 5% of households. Decoupling preserves **\$97 million in annual local revenues**.

Additionally, the plan redirects municipal dollars away from ineffective, regressive initiatives. This includes eliminating commercial property tax abatements for vacant downtown offices and cutting Metropolitan Police Department overtime budgets, which have failed to demonstrate any measurable impact on crime reduction. These progressive revenue reforms ensure the entire municipal safety ecosystem remains structurally insulated from federal interference and economic recessions.

Five-Year Implementation Matrix and Comprehensive Budget Plan

To transition this framework from a policy model to a functional municipal reality, a phased five-year timeline is established, beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Phase 1: Foundation and Revenue Mobilization (Fiscal Year 2027)

The District Council will pass the Budget Support Act subtitles to codify the Business Activity Tax, the progressive capital gains surcharges, the elimination of the stepped-up basis, and permanent decoupling from federal OBBBA cuts. Concurrently, the Council will establish the Youth Self-Determination Fund and seat the democratically elected Youth Governing Council, transferring direct oversight of recreation center budgets to youth representatives. The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) will launch the Low-Barrier Emergency Cash Assistance pilot program, selecting trusted, culturally specific community organizations to manage disbursements. Safe Passage route audits will be completed to identify key transit zones for the municipal school bus pilot.

Phase 2: Operational Expansion and Educational Stabilization (Fiscal Years 2028–2029)

The Uniform Per Student Funding Formula will be amended to integrate the small school weight, stabilizing school budgets in Wards 5, 7, and 8. Capital funds will be released to construct the new specialized wing at St. Coletta of Greater Washington, and \$2.6 million will be allocated to close its operational deficit while preparing Level 5 UPSFF weight integration for FY27. Charter school board trustees will begin their mandatory governance and financial management training programs. The Centralized Municipal Out-of-School Time Portal will launch citywide, enabling families to access youth enrichment programs through a single, unified application. DPR will also establish structured partnerships with DCPS to expand safe and sanitary community access to school-based recreational facilities on nights and weekends, staffed with dedicated security and custodial personnel. Safe Passage Ambassador wages will be raised to a \$23.50 per hour baseline, and the Safe Passage Workers' Care and Safety Covenant will launch, establishing the *Ambassador Wellness and Trauma Recovery Fund* and centralized municipal workers' compensation protections. The standardized training curriculum required under D.C. Law 26-40 will be launched by the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, ensuring all active ambassadors complete conflict de-escalation, cultural competency, and youth mental health training. The municipal school bus transit pilot will deploy its first fleet in Wards 7 and 8, bypassing dangerous transit hubs. Violence interruption operations will transition to decentralized, neighborhood-governed safety cooperatives, maintaining deep presence in high-need corridors.

Phase 3: Full Institutionalization and Evaluation (Fiscal Year 2030)

By 2030, the progressive municipal safety model will be fully operational across all eight wards. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and an independent panel of researchers will publish a comprehensive impact report evaluating juvenile safety, school attendance, and program participation metrics. The target outcomes include a 25% reduction in juvenile violent arrests, a 50% decrease in chronic absenteeism, and a complete reversal of neighborhood school budget instability, establishing a new national model for progressive municipal safety.

Initiative	Lead Partners	Primary Metrics	Key Milestones
Education Reform	OSSE, DCPS, Ward Education Councils, DCFPI.	UPSFF allocation equity; teacher retention rates; counselor-to-student ratios.	Implementation of small school weight; stabilization of Wards 7/8 school staff.

Safe Passage Program	DMPSJ, CBOs (NAARC, Center for Nonprofit Advancement).	Ambassador training completion; transit-route crime incident rates.	Mandatory twice-annual school-ambassador meetings; deployment of school bus pilot.
Violence Interruption	ONSE, Grassroots Safety Cooperatives, DC Justice Lab.	Gun violence hospital admissions; de-escalation event logs.	Transition to neighborhood safety cooperatives; survival cash pilot launch.
Youth Governance	Youth Governing Council, DPR, Student Advisory Committees.	Youth participation rates; Youth Self-Determination Fund allocation.	Democratic elections for Youth Council; codification of fund veto power.
Progressive Tax Reform	OCFO, DC Tax Revision Commission, Fair Budget Coalition.	Net municipal tax revenue; BAT standard deduction compliance.	Codification of BAT; successful decoupling from federal OBBBA tax cuts.