

AFFORDABLE UTILITIES FOR ALL

All Washingtonians should be able to afford everyday needs like electricity and other utilities. But working people across the District have seen their Pepco and other utility bills skyrocket, with some people's costs doubling or even tripling in recent months.

High demand from AI data centers and inefficient infrastructure have contributed to high costs. But another significant cause is DC's failure to provide proper oversight of Pepco as the company has increased rates each of the last three years, much faster than it has in other cities and states. That's money that should be in the pockets of DC residents, not Pepco's investors. Recently, the courts held DC's Public Service Commission responsible for failing to look out for us in approving Pepco's utility price increases.

As mayor, Janeese will lower our costs by:

- Protecting Washingtonians from Pepco and Washington Gas Rate Hikes
- Holding AI Data Centers Accountable
- Increasing Access to Affordable Energy Tools
- Removing Barriers to Energy Assistance for People Who Need It
- Stopping Energy Scams and Exploitation

THE 10-POINT PLAN

1 Protect Washingtonians from Pepco and Washington Gas rate hikes.

DC controls the profits of utility companies, and right now utilities are charging more than they need to, which means residents and businesses are paying too much, all to benefit investors. It doesn't have to be this way. Janeese will appoint Public Service Commissioners who will always center community impact in approving or disapproving rates. This will put money back in our pockets while still allowing utilities to make the investments they need to modernize our grid and maintain reliability.

2 Use regional cooperation and legal strategies to hold AI data centers accountable.

AI data centers in Virginia are driving up our costs and we aren't using all our tools to stop them. As mayor, Janeese will work closely with governors whose constituents are facing the same painful consequences of these AI data centers. She will also advance local and regional legal strategies.

3 Expand community solar, government solar, and balcony solar to cut electric bills.

Janeese will substantially expand community solar on all available government buildings, school parking lots, playgrounds, and on vacant government land to generate solar energy credits. She will also provide utility credits to reduce low and middle-income households' power bills. We can do this cost-effectively by fully implementing and expanding the Solar Shade Expansion Amendment Act.

We can reduce government energy bills by using smart contracts to add solar on DC-owned properties. Implementing energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) will make the District's schools and offices more comfortable, healthier, and more efficient, following the law to move to net zero. This will free up funding to be put to use for District residents to help them invest in energy efficiency. But we should also provide more options for renters and those in buildings who can't install solar on their roofs. By adding incentive programs for residents to buy balcony solar systems and making it easier to get them up and running, we can make renting more affordable, strengthen our grid, and reduce the cost of electricity for everyone.

4 Empower consumers through utility rate options.

Janeese will give people the ability to opt in to lower rates at certain times of the day. This will help households (especially those with electric vehicles) save money through technologies like home battery storage. This will also reduce peak power demand and create savings for everyone.

5 Support smarter EV charging.

As EV adoption expands, Janeese will approach charging the right way so everyone saves money. Most of DC's battery capacity is in electric vehicles. So Janeese will incentivize people to charge at night, when we have surplus energy, and give them the option to return energy during the day, when it's most needed. EV owners and everyone else will benefit.

6 Focus Project Pipes on safety, not profit.

The current Washington Gas plan charges our households at least \$150M to add expensive new pipes that won't be used for very long. That will prolong our reliance on dangerous gas in homes and will dramatically increase costs for households that use gas. The current plan isn't optimized for safety, and Janeese will insist that we do better.

7 Bring down utility bills and help those who fall behind.

Janeese will reduce bills for low-income households to ensure everyone has access to utilities they can afford. She will substantially increase automatic enrollment in utility discount programs; expand energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households to reduce energy use; and prioritize local funds to support federal LIHEAP to provide targeted support when households can't pay their bills.

8 Allow customers to access energy-saving tools even if they don't have the money upfront.

Janeese will work toward requiring Pepco to implement on bill financing, which allows customers to upgrade their homes to save money through energy efficiency without upfront costs. This approach, proven in other states, can help households of all income levels invest in energy savings that pays for itself. We should also expand the work the DC Sustainable Energy Utility does to bring energy savings to District businesses and residents. Both these improvements will help households save money for themselves but also help everyone else—energy conservation lowers the price for everyone.

9 Save small businesses money on their utility bills.

Most large companies in the District buy low-cost power, saving nearly \$200 million per year – but small businesses don't have the time to shop around for energy. Janeese will establish bulk power purchasing and make it easier for small businesses to sign up and save.

10 Protect DC residents from energy reseller scams.

Too many low-income households get their electricity from overpriced third-party energy suppliers, which scam residents into signing contracts through which they are overcharged. This raises energy bills and makes families accrue more debt. As mayor, Janeese will initiate more stringent regulation of third-party suppliers and ensure they can't charge residents more than Pepco for the same energy.