



D.C. MAYORAL CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE
*Submitted by the Washington, D.C. Taxi Operators Association,
Affiliated with Teamsters Local 922 in Washington, D.C.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, is one of the most important cities in the world. The transportation infrastructure in D.C. is vital to the daily success of the city. The Washington, D.C. taxi drivers are an important part in keeping our city moving.

Unfortunately, over the past several months the D.C. taxi drivers have found it nearly impossible to make a living wage while providing the good service that they want to provide. They have taken huge economic hits associated with the recent mandates and regulations, the government shut down, excessive and unnecessary fines and fees, and the unprecedented inclement weather that has taken a toll on drivers and residents alike.

These hits are combined with the huge amount of unregulated cars competing in the city to take away business from the heavily regulated taxi drivers. The result: drivers have lost thousands of dollars due to the cost associated with the new meters, credit card machines, rear consoles, and dome lights. They now face additional steep costs from the requirements associated with the new paint scheme and the mandate to have newer vehicles in service.

The huge costs to drivers and their families are on top of what they have to pay to purchase and maintain their vehicles. These high costs have been imposed upon them while others are allowed to operate unregulated in our city. The changes were supposed to bring a new modern taxi industry to D.C. but the cost has been borne on the drivers. Drivers do not oppose modernization per se but they can't sustain the cost and continue to be forced to compete with an unregulated service.

Please answer the questions on the following pages. This information will help the Washington, D.C. Taxi Operators Association, affiliated with Teamsters Local 922, in our ongoing efforts to help D.C. taxi drivers win the respect and fairness they deserve.

Your name: _____

13) Many taxi drivers feel as if they have been harassed by hack inspectors and feel as if the hack inspectors issue unwarranted and unfair tickets and fines. What would you do to ensure that this doesn't happen and that the D.C. taxi drivers are treated with the respect that they deserve? (please explain)

14) Drivers have seen many cabs from surrounding areas pick up passengers in D.C. Some have been told by hack inspectors that they have no authority to ticket or fine such cabs. They instead focus on scrutinizing the D.C. drivers. What would you do to stop these illegal cabs and ensure that all taxis picking up passengers in D.C. are licensed to do so? (please explain)

15) What would you do to improve the D.C. taxi industry as a whole? (please explain)

Thank you for filling out this survey, please enclose in the attached self-addressed stamped envelope and mail it back or fax the survey to Teamsters Local 922, (202) 526-9253.

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1) In the last year, about how many times have you taken a licensed D.C. taxi cab?

(Check the appropriate box)

- 0 1-10 11-20 21 or more

2) Recently a proposed fee increase was submitted to the D.C. Taxicab Commission (DCTC), for the Panel on the Industry and the Taxi Commission to consider. The proposed fee increases are for additional passengers, luggage and trunk use only. These increases would bring DC fees on par with surrounding areas. Do you support these fees and/or increases?

- Yes No

3) A \$200 reimbursement incentive program was introduced to offset the cost of the newly mandated paint scheme. This program is helpful, but it only covers the first 3,000 drivers who take advantage of it and doesn't pay the full cost. Would you seek additional subsidies to offset the costs that the drivers have been subjected to including but not limited to the paint?

- Yes No

The so-called ride-share companies, operating as Uber X, Sidecar and Lyft in DC are harming the livelihoods of D.C. taxi drivers. These companies and drivers are operating unregulated and are competing against the heavily regulated taxi drivers, giving them an unfair advantage. Operating unregulated raises very serious security concerns for the citizens and visitors of D.C. not to mention the city is losing tens of thousands of dollars in revenue.

4) In the last year, about how many rides have you taken with Uber X, Sidecar or Lyft?

- 0 1-5 6-15 16 or more

5) Drivers of the "ride share" service can simply travel in from anywhere in the country to operate in D.C. They can commute here when they think there will be a spike in volume for events such as the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival. Are you aware of this?

- Yes No

6) Do you agree that as it stands this unregulated service poses safety concerns in our nation's capital?

- Yes No

7) In virtually all cities including D.C., the number of taxis that are allowed to operate is monitored and limited to keep from having unnecessary congestion, pollution and to protect the industry as a whole. Allowing the unregulated "ride share" service to operate eliminates the ability to control and enforce these concerns. This allows the "ride share" cars to flood the streets while the taxis are limited. Do you agree that the number of "ride share" cars should be restricted and included in regulations?

- Yes No

8) Do you agree that ride-sharing companies should be covered, at a minimum, with the same rules, insurance requirements, and regulations that are imposed on D.C. taxi drivers?

- Yes No

9) The drivers that participate in these "ride share" services should be required to pay the same fees as a taxi driver. However, they currently are not subjected to the same fees associated with license, training requirements, background checks, face id, inspection, H-Tag, airport hang tag, and one stop cards. By not paying these fees the city is losing revenue. Is this a concern to you?

- Yes No

10) With the new regulations associated with the modernization of the taxi fleet, the taxi drivers are required to accept credit cards and continue to accept cash. Are you aware that the "ride share" drivers accept credit cards via their "app" but will not accept cash?

- Yes No

11) Will you support immediately prohibiting these ride-sharing companies from operating in D.C. until a fair resolution is reached?

- Yes No

The DCTC is the regulating body for the D.C. Taxi Industry. Currently the DCTC is comprised of eight commissioners including the chairman. Out of the eight, there are only two commissioners from the "Taxi Industry."

12) Would you support changing the makeup of the DCTC to mandate that at least half of the seats be filled with people from the "Taxi Industry"?

- Yes No