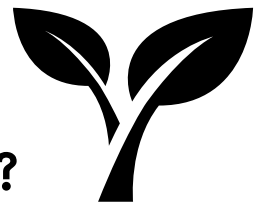




September Edition



DC APPLESEED What's *Sprouting* at DC Appleseed?

Policy & Program Highlights

Democratic Participation

- DC Appleseed continues to work closely with partners to educate the community and push back against the federal government on challenges to DC's autonomy.
 - On September 4th, in coalition with the Appleseed Network and the Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, Vanessa Batters-Thompson (Executive Director) hosted a webinar about the federal takeover of the District and what it means for the rest of the country. This session offered insights and advocacy tools to more than 150 attendees from across the United States.
 - On September 8th, DC Appleseed joined DC Vote to hold a briefing for Congressional staff on anti-Home Rule bills and riders currently pending in the House of Representatives. Along with author and professor Derek Musgrove, Vanessa Batters-Thompson presented on the history of Home Rule and all the ways DC's limited democracy is currently under attack by federal officials.
 - On September 15th, DC Appleseed joined WCL, ACLU of DC, and other civil rights/legal services groups to file an amicus brief in the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's suit to end the National Guard deployment, *District of Columbia v. Donald Trump*. The brief emphasized the District's long struggle for civil rights and asserted that democratic accountability for law enforcement is an essential aspect of the District's self-governance.
 - On September 19th, Vanessa Batters-Thompson spoke with the members of the Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative about the recent federal surge in DC and how it impacts communities east of the Anacostia River.
 - On September 25th, Vanessa Batters-Thompson spoke at a League of Women Voters event on the occupation of DC by the federal government. The event, which also featured Dr. Breanna Gray from the University of Maryland's Department of Government and Politics, aimed to inform League members about the legal and policy challenges currently facing the District.
 - Throughout the month, Vanessa Batters-Thompson met with law firm partners, national civil rights groups, allies in Congress, and other key partners to discuss and prepare for ongoing attacks on DC's autonomy.
- Sydney Richardson-Gorski (Legal Policy Intern) attended an Oversight Hearing on Oversight of DC which examined crime in DC. The witnesses included Mayor Muriel Bowser, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Attorney General Brian Schwalb, and Gregory Jackson Jr., Former Deputy Director of the White House Office on Gun Violence Prevention.





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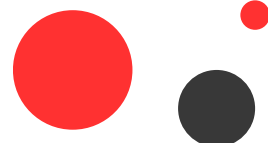
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Environmental Justice

- **Anacostia Sediment Project:** On September 11th, Vanessa Batters-Thompson participated in the quarterly meeting of the Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia River, at which the Department of Energy and Environment released the 100% Basis of Design Report for the Anacostia River Sediment Project. DC Appleseed's Anacostia River team subsequently submitted detailed comments on that document highlighting some significant omissions and areas of potential confusion.
- **Climate Classes DC:** On September 24th, Vanessa Batters-Thompson presented to Climate Classes DC on the intersection of DC's Home Rule Act and climate activism. Climate Classes DC is a growing local community that empowers individuals to address climate change by learning and sharing sustainable life skills together.

Economic Mobility

- **Long Term Care:** Kristin D. Ewing (Policy Counsel and Director of Experiential Learning) and Paige Buckley (Legal Policy Intern) attended The Future of Elder Well-Being Summit at Gaulladet Univ. to explore potential connections with DC Appleseed's long-term care initiatives, particularly in areas of guardianship and less restrictive alternatives. The event was also useful to help build connections with those focused on similar issues, such as the Office of the DC Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- **Medicaid Coverage:** Kristin D. Ewing represented the DC Coalition on Long Term Care at the Medicaid 60th Anniversary Celebration convened by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the local Service Employees International Union (SEIU). This celebration brought together direct care workers, consumers, advocates, and elected officials to celebrate Medicaid and galvanize support to ensure robust Medicaid coverage and services in the future.





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Health Equity

- **School-based Behavioral Health:** Kristin D. Ewing presented at the MOMENTUM Residency in her position as a co-chair of the Strengthening Families Through Behavioral Health Coalition. The MOMENTUM Residency is a comprehensive professional development program shaping the future of school-based mental health services, and the presentation introduced these passionate social workers to the DC government and ways they can get involved and advocate using their lived experience and professional insights.
- **Department of Behavioral Health:** As co-chair of the Strengthening Families Coalition, Kristin D. Ewing attended two stakeholder feedback sessions held by the Department of Behavioral Health as the agency works to finalize its comprehensive plan for school-based behavioral health in the District.
 - Additionally, the Strengthening Families Coalition held an Insurance Working Group meeting to continue exploring ways to improve child behavioral health outcomes and strengthen the school based behavioral health system through insurance regulation reform.
- **FY2026 Medicaid and Medicare Budget:** Vanessa Batters-Thompson and other leaders of the Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative met with the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Wayne Turnage, to hear about the likely impacts of the FY2026 DC and federal budget cuts on Medicaid and Medicare for DC residents.

Organizational Updates

- **2026 Intern Recruitment:** Kristin D. Ewing participated in a Georgetown Law networking event aimed at exposing current law students to the myriad public interest career pathways that exist in the legal sector.
- **Fall Mixer:** Kristin D. Ewing and MJ Gray (Policy Fellow) attended Greater Greater Washington's Fall Mixer to connect with local leaders in sustainable development and environmental justice.