



FOR RELEASE
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Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson Repeat NO on 83
Join DC Dems, DC Labor, Others
More Outside Money for Yes Effort

On Monday, Mayor Bowser and Chairman Phil Mendelson both restated their opposition to Initiative 83, the November ballot question that would bring ranked choice voting (RCV) and partially open primaries to DC. Mayor Bowser, in an answer to a reporter's question at a DPW event, said "I will be voting 'no' on the Initiative," adding that "we certainly shouldn't be asking the voters to vote on two different topics at the same time, in the same question [and] I am totally against ranked choice voting."

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnhOBKXRvxU> Timestamp 46:00)

The Mayor was joined by Chairman Mendelson at his pre-legislative briefing at the Wilson Building. Initiative 83 is a "solution in search of a problem," he said, is a "misunderstanding of the democratic process, of democracy in this country. This solution is not going to get better office holders" adding it will make elections "more complicated [and] confuse people."

(See <https://x.com/MayorBowser>, October 28, 2024, posting, Timestamp 16:20)

Joining DC's top local officials in urging NO on 83 are the DC Democratic Party and the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, which "expressed serious concern about the implications of this measure."

"NO on 83 welcomes this support for our campaign to stop this misguided reform proposal," said Deirdre Brown, Chair of Vote NO on Initiative 83, "Not only is it confusing, I83 is an outside intrusion and meddling into our elections that we don't need. We are all volunteers and what little financing we have is local. In contrast, just yesterday, Martin Austermuhle posted on X that Make All Votes Count DC, 'the group behind Initiative 83 took in almost *\$600k* from mid-September through the end of October. Some \$550k of that came from the Denver-based election reform group @uniteamerica. They have raised over \$1.5 million dollars with over 80 % of that coming from out of state PACS and special interest groups.'"

<https://x.com/maustermuhle/status/1851073374094549062>