

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
2014 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

VOTE for Calvin H. Gurley
At-Large Council
November 4, 2014

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Will you act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. Government employees, to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery)? [Note: this question has been overtaken by events since it was drafted at the start of 2014. Study the Mayor's executive action here: <http://tinyurl.com/kn2dzty>]

Yes, I will act to ensure that the District provides health insurance to all D.C. Government employees and those who are transgender. In order to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery, specifically for transgender employees, research must be conducted to find specified surgery that is also desired from others covered D.C. employees. The research will be gathered to consolidate specific surgery procedures for all...under the District Health Care Coverage.

2. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment?

I will support budgets that target funds to resolve any health disparities between LGBT and D.C. residents and provide equal health treatment.

3. Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

This is hypocritical. The very same D.C. Council members that GLAA had supported in the April 1, 2014 Primary Election are the very same elected officials who placed obstacles on the citizens' passed medical marijuana law. I highlighted this disrespect from the Council killing or modifying citizen passed initiative in the GLAA April 2014 Primary Forum.

What do you think the Council will do when we (residents) pass an initiative to impose term limits on Council members? Same example I presented at the GLAA April Primary Forum. The Council has established a habit to reform, change or modify any and all "passed" D.C. residents' Legislative Initiatives. The Council illegally withheld the implementation and delayed the citizens' passed initiative to vote for our own Attorney General.

The Council is mistreating and abusing D.C. residents just like the U.S. Congress abuses the D.C. Council members.



4. Describe steps you will take to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.

- 1) **The Federal Government will not have access to HIV/AIDS patients' reports or status.**
- 2) **A Public Service announcement campaign will include daily airing of HIV/AIDS commercials, daily print media ads in the local newspapers.**
- 3) **A local campaign for HIV /AIDS prevention will be administered in D.C. Public Schools starting at the Junior High level.**
- 4) **Will recruit John Hopkins Hospital to lead the way to reach the public and to bring confidence and support to all D.C. residents who are HIV/AIDS positive.**

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

5. Will you press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data?

Only the Chairman of the Council, Phil Mendelson who you supported in April, can increase the level and demand oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department from the Councilmembers.

The Council cannot "legislate" government policy or office procedures. Therefore, it is the Mayor has to establish policy for the Police Department to:

- 1) **Take seriously all complaints from LGBT residents**
- 2) **Make it routine and required that any complaint from LGBT residents are reported and place on file. File records can especially be used to establish a pattern or a particular behavior of those that have been accused but not enough evidence to charge.**

WHY IS THIS MISSING? D.C. POLICE LGBT TASK FORCE

During the GLAA April 2014 Forum I brought to the attention of the many GLAA members and the audience that Phil Mendelson has no knowledge and did not speak to the action of Chief Cathy Lanier's detailing LGBT Task Force Members to regular street duty in areas of the City – China Town/Verizon Center, Georgetown, Columbia Heights and etc.

These LGBT Officers are specially trained and lectured on LGBT affairs and should remain as an unit.

6. What will you do to provide alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to sex work for survival?

I will implement my 25 year old idea to save our children, who are at-risk, by entering them into a new, and D.C. financed residential Military School.



Like all D.C. residents who are in need of work, I will find and create the jobs needed for those who want to work. Additionally, I will reopen several Vocational Junior or Senior High School that offer apprenticeships in automotive repair, masonry, carpentry, plumbing, hotel hospitality, barbering, an electrician, welding and the culinary arts.

7. Will you support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training to all police officers, including in the handling of intimate partner violence?

Please explain cultural “competency” training? Without an understanding of this subject I cannot sensibly answer the question. I do not know what qualifies a trainer in the LGBT culture. However, I do know that the LGBT population suffers and experience that same discrimination, Hate crimes, attacks, domestic couple violence and social abuse that minorities have lived through in the past ...and currently today.

My wife’s private employer has recognized and embraced diversity in their workplace which has made a place for LGBT employees. Our District of Columbia Government must do the same and establish a LGBT friendly workplace throughout the many agencies and departments.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Will you insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

Yes, if not accepted by all members on the Council, then a Deputy Director for Civil Rights Law Enforcement of OHR will be established and filled with such a person.

9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including the chronically underemployed trans population?

Yes. Specifically, who do you think will fill the working position for HIV/AIDS Awareness programs and Prevention programs? Who do you think will fill the positions of awareness programs in our public schools? But, D.C. Government wide hiring will be increased when the city will put a moratorium on contracting out Government jobs and services.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

10. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing?

Yes.



CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

11. Will you support strengthening Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) reforms by eliminating license protests filed by citizens associations and ad hoc groups, requiring stakeholders to participate in the community process provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission?

I humbly reply.

I really don't understand your angle that this elimination strengthens ABC reforms. You must first read on the powers and the responsibilities of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners found in the HOME Rule Act.

The City Council cannot change or modify, by legislation, the Home Rule Act. The U.S. Congress holds this responsibility and power of such a change, modification or elimination to the Act.

Secondly, you do hold true that any "desired" action, event or modification to your neighborhood/community by outside forces (developers, D.C. Government, businesses etc) will have to have your review and approval...since you live in and control your neighborhood...do you?

12. Will you defend the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it?

We have to learn and accept to respect our neighbor's community. However, the District should designate areas in the City where adult-oriented entertainment can be provided and appropriately licensed.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Thursday, September 11 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013.

In addition to sending your signed hard copy, please email a copy (in any major word processor or text format) for loading on GLAA's website to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

