

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC

2014 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

1. Yes. The District's own human rights laws require parity in health insurance coverage. That should ensure that when sex affirmation surgery is classified as medically necessary that it be covered by insurance. Yet, there has been no meaningful implementation or enforcement of this right. As Councilmember I would designate resources for implementation and enforcement so that laws meant to establish real equality are not merely words on a page.

2. Yes. Members of the LGBT community are two and a half times as likely to be at risk for depression and anxiety as those in the general population. LGBT youth are even more vulnerable, in some cases having been kicked out of their homes or being bullied in schools. The District must dedicate comprehensive resources to the LGBT community and organizations that serve the community to ensure those at risk are receiving the support they need.

3. Yes. I also support the full legalization of marijuana.

4. While HAHSTA has made some improvements over the past 10 years, the Council must apply more oversight to its grants programs to insure funds are being properly administered for programs that are not yet performing up to standards, such as HIV surveillance, monitoring and evaluation and sexual health education.

The Council must also ensure parity in funding for work that targets at-risk populations, like the transgender community. Low levels of funding for groups serving transgender individuals has historically kept them operating on a shoestring budget and unable to provide a full range of service.

5. Yes. The LGBT community is the only demographic for which bias-related crime has been steadily increasing in the District. Organizations like GLOV have worked to increase reporting and proper classification of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. But despite the fact that MPD once had an award-winning GLLU, in recent years it has been scaled back significantly and the overall objectivity, understanding and reporting of hate crimes against the LGBT community has often meant little-to-no justice for LGBT victims of crime. We must fully reinstate funding for a GLLU and do whatever is necessary to ensure every MPD officer has the training and tools to comprehensively address crimes directed at the LGBT community.

6. We must fund counseling and transitional housing services for those who have been kicked out of their homes, or who cannot find work or make ends meet due to discrimination in the workplace. Those at risk may include youth, transgender people or even seniors who are not well-served by traditional low-income senior housing. We must tackle this issue for those of all ages and begin to think more creatively about long-term supportive housing for the LGBT community, as we simultaneously tackle bullying in the schools and employment discrimination as well as provide better access to education and employment.

Brianne K. Nadeau

7. Yes. While MPD does work with volunteers to provide this training, it is happening slowly and not comprehensively. I would support funding for trainers at a scale that allows for rapid and comprehensive training of MPD personnel with a special focus in areas of the District where the LGBT is more heavily concentrated and where hate crimes are taking place.

8. Yes. The person in this position must be a qualified champion for human rights enforcement to ensure the laws on the books are actually serving our most vulnerable populations.

9. Yes. The DC Government must reflect the diversity of its residents and provide equal opportunity for people of all backgrounds, and it should model diversity for other employers. Our hiring practices should take into consideration the most vulnerable or underemployed populations in our communities.

The DC government has to be inclusive and model the District's population at every level of government. As Councilmember, my own office would model the diversity of Ward 1 (the most diverse ward in the District) and I would use my oversight and legislative roles to work with each agency and ensure that our government offices are striving for comprehensive workforce diversity – not just symbolic hiring from diverse populations – reflecting that of the District population.

10. Yes. As a SMYAL Ally, I have had the opportunity to better understand the distinct issues faced by LGBT youth. As Councilmember, I would support more funding and organizational partnerships to serve this population with counseling services, healthcare, housing, educational resources and job training and placement.

11. Yes. As former chair of ANC1B, I believe the current rules allow ad hoc groups that represent only a few voices to unfairly insert themselves into proceedings, when they should be participating in the community input process provided for by the ANC.

12. Yes. I'm not interested in telling adults how, when and where they should entertain themselves above and beyond established licensing and zoning regulations.

It has been important to me, throughout my campaign for DC Council, that I learn from all the communities I would be called on to serve. That is why for the past several years I have become more engaged with the LGBT community, as a member of the Stein Democratic Club, as a SMYAL Ally, and meeting with leaders of GLOV, the transgender community and spending time at the DC Center. Should I have the opportunity to serve on the Council, I would be not only an ally but also a champion for the LGBT community: fighting against discrimination, working for full employment as well as ensuring access to healthcare and housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brianne K. Nadeau

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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)?

Yes. The District's own human rights laws require parity in health insurance coverage. That should ensure that when sex affirmation surgery is classified as medically necessary that it be covered by insurance. Yet, there has been no meaningful implementation or enforcement of this right. As Councilmember I would designate resources for implementation and enforcement so that laws meant to establish real equality are not merely words on a page.

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

Yes. Members of the LGBT community are two and a half times as likely to be at risk for depression and anxiety as those in the general population. LGBT youth are even more vulnerable, in some cases having been kicked out of their homes or being bullied in schools. The District must dedicate comprehensive resources to the LGBT community and organizations that serve the community to ensure those at risk are receiving the support they need.

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?

Yes. I also support the full legalization of marijuana.

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.

While HAHSTA has made some improvements over the past 10 years, the Council must apply more oversight to its grants programs to insure funds are being properly administered for programs that are not yet performing up to standards, such as HIV surveillance, monitoring and evaluation and sexual health education.

The Council must also ensure parity in funding for work that targets at-risk populations, like the transgender community. Low levels of funding for groups serving transgender individuals has historically kept them operating on a shoestring budget and unable to provide a full range of service.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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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?

Yes. The LGBT community is the only demographic for which bias-related crime has been steadily increasing in the District. Organizations like GLOV have worked to increase reporting and proper classification of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. But despite the fact that MPD once had an award-winning GLLU, in recent years it has been scaled back significantly and the overall objectivity, understanding and reporting of hate crimes against the LGBT community has often meant little-to-no justice for LGBT victims of crime. We must fully reinstate funding for a GLLU and do whatever is necessary to ensure every MPD officer has the training and tools to comprehensively address crimes directed at the LGBT community.

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?

We must fund counseling and transitional housing services for those who have been kicked out of their homes, or who cannot find work or make ends meet due to discrimination in the workplace. Those at risk may include youth, transgender people or even seniors who are not well-served by traditional low-income senior housing. We must tackle this issue for those of all ages and begin to think more creatively about long-term supportive housing for the LGBT community, as we simultaneously tackle bullying in the schools and employment discrimination as well as provide better access to education and employment.

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?

Yes. While MPD does work with volunteers to provide this training, it is happening slowly and not comprehensively. I would support funding for trainers at a scale that allows for rapid and comprehensive training of MPD personnel with a special focus in areas of the District where the LGBT is more heavily concentrated and where hate crimes are taking place.

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. The person in this position must be a qualified champion for human rights enforcement to ensure the laws on the books are actually serving our most vulnerable populations.

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. The DC Government must reflect the diversity of its residents and provide equal opportunity for people of all backgrounds, and it should model diversity for other employers.



Our hiring practices should take into consideration the most vulnerable or underemployed populations in our communities.

The DC government has to be inclusive and model the District's population at every level of government. As Councilmember, my own office would model the diversity of Ward 1 (the most diverse ward in the District) and I would use my oversight and legislative roles to work with each agency and ensure that our government offices are striving for comprehensive workforce diversity – not just symbolic hiring from diverse populations – reflecting that of the District population.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

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

Yes. As a SMYAL Ally, I have had the opportunity to better understand the distinct issues faced by LGBT youth. As Councilmember, I would support more funding and organizational partnerships to serve this population with counseling services, healthcare, housing, educational resources and job training and placement.

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?

Yes. As former chair of ANC1B, I believe the current rules allow ad hoc groups that represent only a few voices to unfairly insert themselves into proceedings, when they should be participating in the community input process provided for by the ANC.

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?

Yes. I'm not interested in telling adults how, when and where they should entertain themselves above and beyond established licensing and zoning regulations.

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.

It has been important to me, throughout my campaign for DC Council, that I learn from all the communities I would be called on to serve. That is why for the past several years I have become more engaged with the LGBT community, as a member of the Stein Democratic Club, as a SMYAL Ally, and meeting with leaders of GLOV, the transgender community and spending time at the DC Center. Should I have the opportunity to serve on the Council, I would be not only an ally but also a champion for the LGBT community: fighting against discrimination, working for full employment as well as ensuring access to healthcare and housing.



Thank you for your consideration.

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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, February 6 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 (www.glaa.org) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

