

## Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC

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### For Release:

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## GLAA releases candidate questionnaires, LGBT policy brief

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., today launches its 2014 Election Project and releases its questionnaires for Mayoral and D.C. Council candidates plus its LGBT policy brief, "Building on Victory."

GLAA President Rick Rosendall stated, "GLAA gathered input from a wide range of local LGBT advocates including the DC Center, DC Trans Coalition (DCTC), Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV) and others. The result is 'Building on Victory,' the most comprehensive single document advancing LGBT issues in D.C."

On January 3, 2014, GLAA will email its questionnaires and policy brief to candidates in the April 1 D.C. primary election. The deadline for receipt of candidate responses is February 6, after which GLAA will assign ratings to the primary candidates (on a scale of -10 to +10) based on their questionnaire responses and their records on LGBT issues. GLAA does not endorse candidates in partisan elections.

The "Building on Victory" policy brief is divided into six broad areas: Families, Public Health, Judiciary and Public Safety, Human Rights, Youth and Seniors, and Consumers and Businesses. It is prefaced by a one-page summary of actions GLAA seeks from D.C. elected officials, including these:

- Ensure that all health insurance policies cover the full range of transgender health care needs, including sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery).
- Target funds to address LGBT health disparities in mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Reform the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs.
- Develop alternatives to incarceration for marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival.
- Increase the scope of job creation programs for transgender residents, including with hires in the Mayor's office to demonstrate a personal commitment at the top.
- Continue reform of alcohol licensing to eliminate standing for non-representative groups.

GLAA's Mayoral candidate questionnaire is online at:

<http://www.glaa.org/archive/2014/mqprimary.pdf>

GLAA's D.C. Council candidate questionnaire is online at:

<http://www.glaa.org/archive/2014/cqprimary.pdf>

GLAA's "Building on Victory" policy brief is online at:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/glaa2014pdf>

<http://www.tinyurl.com/glaa2014htm>

GLAA's Elections Project 2014 main page is at:

<http://www.glaa.org/archive/2014/election2014.shtml>

Founded in 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington (GLAA) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit political organization that defends the safety, health, and civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people in the nation's capital.

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