

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2016 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

HOME RULE

1. Will you oppose congressionally imposed school vouchers, which have been shown not to improve students' academic achievement, and which often go to schools that operate outside the nondiscrimination provisions of the D.C. Human Rights Act?

I was proud to join other members on the DC Council opposing the congressional imposition of private school vouchers on the District. I do not support any program that directs resources to organizations that discriminate against any community. I will continue to stand strong on this issue against congressional interference.

HEALTH

2. Will you press the Department of Health to complete and issue the long-delayed LGBT Health Report, which is supposed to be issued annually?

Yes, I will work with GLAA of DC to press strongly that the Department of Health to complete and issue the LGBTQ Health report annually. The LGBTQ community experience a unique set of health disparities unlike any other group given their diversity in race/ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status. Recognizing this diversity, this report provides the opportunity to give us a closer look into the health issues that impact the LGBTQ community in addition to providing insight on where gaps in funding, support and research may exist.

3. Will you support budgets that target funds to address LGBT health disparities, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment, and mandate data collection on this population across all programs?

Yes, it is important that we provide funding where the need is the most significant. Addressing health disparities across the city is a big priority on the Council but we haven't done a great job at addressing these issues in the LGBT community. Proper data collection and targeted funding are one of the ways we'll be able to identify the problem to better fund the solution. But we should also work with our community partners who engage with LGBT residents on a daily basis to help us better target, amend and fund the current health initiatives we have in place. DOH, The Council and the Mayor all need to be aggressive in making sure the LGBTQ organizations that are doing the direct services receive the funding necessary to address the many issues in the community.

4. Will you support separating Emergency Medical Services from the Fire Department?

The newly implemented of a 3rd party provider is the Mayor's plan to address the issues

in poor service to residents in DC. This system has worked in other jurisdictions and I want it to work in Dc but I am not confident. What I know is that underrepresented populations such as the LGBTQ communities and Ward 8 residents are the people that suffer the greatest when the system does not work. We need to make sure that there is accountability for the services provided our community and that there is the correct leadership ensuring those services. We need the expertise of Fire and EMS with a priority of high quality services in both Fire and EMS. I support doing whatever we need to do make this the reality for the LGBTQ and Ward 8 communities. Our residents deserve culturally competent services provided with the highest quality.

JUDICIARY

5. Will you support and press for passage of Bill 21-38, the Death with Dignity Act?

Yes, I support the Death with Dignity Act. I have worked with Councilmember Cheh and with Compassion and Choices representatives to educate the Ward 8 community on the benefits of this legislation. In addition I had the opportunity to meet with Dan Diaz, husband of Brittany Maynard to talk about the impact the legislation on families. I understand the value of this choice for residents and will continue to push for the legislation move forward. As a member of the Health and Human Services Committee I have urged the Chair to move forward with this important piece of legislation.

6. Will you press for the District to provide “Jobs Not Jails” by developing alternatives to incarceration for marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival?

Yes, there are so many DC residents would benefit from a restorative justice program instead of time behind bars. We must find ways we can better support residents who have turned to crime by providing them with alternatives that with turn their lives around for the better. We know that many residents resort to this work as a means of survival and that we should look to provide those resources, such as housing and employment that will prevent this reality. Specifically know this issue impacts LGBTQ youth and we must create more housing opportunities for homeless LGBTQ youth, other alternatives of employment, mental health services and substance abuse issues that are often at the core of making the decision to resorting to sex work for survival.

7. Will you support and press for passage of a reintroduced Bill 20-63, the Police Monitoring Enhancement Amendment Act, to give the Office of Police Complaints unfettered access to information and supporting documentation of the covered law enforcement agencies?

I support access of the OPC to the information that is necessary to have thorough and complete investigations of complaints made against MPD. We have an obligation to make sure that all of the facts and information surrounding a complaint are made available so that the resident can have fair opportunity. This access would provide the necessary support for the LGBTQ and African American community in complaints against MPD. We have an issue with the treatment of our LGBTQ and African American

community members and should have the access to hold MPD accountable for their actions.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

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

Yes, I have known many young people that have become homeless because of family issues because they identify as LGBTQ. We must look to address this issue both through transitional and permanent housing. We requested additional funding for housing for LGBTQ youth in our budget priorities to Mayor Bowser. We have made progress in housing opportunities but we need to do more especially in in Ward 8 for our LGBTQ youth. I know of a couple in DC that has opened their home to LGBTQ seniors because of the great needs in the community but are having difficulties with finances. I was proud to push for more resources and services for LGBTQ seniors at the Office of Aging budget hearing. This population is grossly underserved by the government and not included in the planning of program services. We must not only find ways to support community efforts but look to create supportive housing for the LGBT community.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

9. 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 will defend the rights of adults to make adult decisions. In Ward 8, we have significant accountability issues as revenue has superseded many vendor decisions to abide by the law. Accountability and enforcement will be very important for me in making sure that minors are not able to participate in adult activities. Adults who want to participate in adult-oriented entertainment should be allowed and those who do not do not have to participate.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Your answers should be typed in a separate document 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 Friday, April 29 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013; or email it as an attachment in PDF format (for loading on GLAA's website) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.