

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

HOME RULE

1. This is a very difficult issue for me. When I was 14, I received 'A Better Chance Scholarship' to attend boarding school. Without that scholarship, I do not know where I would be today.

HEALTH

2. Yes, I will press the Department of Health to complete and issue the LGBT Health Report.
3. Yes, I will 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.
4. Yes, I will support separating Emergency Medical Services from the Fire Department.

JUDICIARY

5. Yes, I will support and press for passage of Bill 21-38, the Death With Dignity Act.
6. Yes, I will press for the District to provide "Jobs Not Jails" by developing alternatives to incarceration for marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival.
7. Yes, I will 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.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

8. Yes, I will support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

9. Yes, I will 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.

My record on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender affairs has been well documented. During my tenure on the DC Council and as Chairman of the Committee on Government Affairs, I championed, along with DC Councilmember Jim Graham, Bill 16-235, the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs Act of 2005. This Bill was introduced in honor of my good

friend Wanda R. Alston and it permanently established the office without fear of it being abolished by subsequent administrations.

Councilmember Jim Graham and I also introduced the “District of Columbia Human Rights Act Clarification Act of 2005” to amend the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977 to add “gender identity or expression” to the list of already enumerated classes protected by current District law. This Act was important because it clarified that discrimination against transgender and gender variant people is illegal in the District of Columbia.

While working at Pepco in 2007, it was brought to my attention during DC Council hearings that Pepco did not provide benefits to domestic partners or civil unions. I immediately had this changed and benefits were provided.

Furthermore, as the Democratic National Committeeman for DC, I supported same sex marriage legislation and voted in favor of the resolution passed by the DC Democratic State Committee. In 2015, I officiated and hosted a same sex ceremony in my office at the John A. Wilson District Building.

Additionally, I support Mayor Bowser’s executive orders to prevent the expenditures of DC tax dollars in States or jurisdictions that discriminate against the LGBTQ community.

My record is clear; I stand for positive deeds, scholarship, and love for all persons, genders, and sexual preferences.