

GLAA Responses to Candidate Questionnaire: Nov 6, 2018 General Election

Ann Wilcox, Candidate for Mayor, DC Statehood Green Party

HOUSING:

1. I would direct the Department of Human Services to monitor singles shelters to ensure that LGBTQ applicants are admitted to a shelter that corresponds to their gender identify and do not face discrimination while residing there, as required by law. As an attorney, I have worked with protesters who were housed for short periods at the DC Jail; specific rules were enacted, requiring jail staff to treat inmates with sensitivity, self-selecting their gender identity. (In practicality, inmates identifying as transsexual, are usually placed in segregated/solo quarters, "for their own safety.") I would ensure that the safety of all LGBTQ shelter residents is regularly monitored, and work to educate shelter staff about these issues.

HEALTH:

2. Yes, I would direct the Dept of Health to work with a community advisory group and allocate necessary resources to ensure the annual completion and issuance of a trans-inclusive LGBT Health Report. Especially with violence directed toward transsexual or non-binary persons on the street (including murders in DC and elsewhere), there is a pressing need for statistics, education and awareness of the needs of LGBTQ persons in our community. I would work with the Dept of Health – as well as the Mayor's Office of Community outreach – to specifically reach out to this community.
3. I would target funds to address LGBTQ health disparities, including mental health, substance abuse treatment and through grants to providers such as Whiteman Walker Health services. Data collection is critical, and this is one area the current Mayor's office has not fulfilled sufficiently (for example, for data collection supporting the NEAR act, dealing with interaction between police and the community). Greater mental health services; group house and community living programs; and substance abuse are areas where city and private monies should be directed.
4. I would support programs boosting public awareness of PrEP and PEP options, to prevent HIV infections. This is just one area where greater public health education is needed; such programs should be promoted through the Dept of Health and community partners throughout the city.

JUDICIARY:

5. I support decriminalization of sex work in D.C, however there needs to be greater enforcement in this area, as a means of reducing human and sex trafficking. As an attorney, I have some concerns with the federal bill FASTA/SESTA, which creates liability for online or other publishers of sex worker information – this has the effect of further driving sex workers "into the shadows". We must work with community partners to decriminalize but also support sex workers, promoting greater health and safety for these members of the community.
6. I believe that greater outreach about health concerns, and to identify persons who are being trafficked, are the greatest priorities. Decriminalization is one way to help bring persons out of



the shadows. As stated, I believe that FASTA/SESTA is having an undesirable effect, in limiting the ability of sex workers to advertise in a safer manner.

7. Greater education, housing and health services are needed, in order to improve the lives of marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival. If this is a voluntary activity (not a case of human trafficking) we must decriminalize and find ways to help such persons, both through Government and non-profit organizations.
8. I support the Bill to enhance the powers of the Office of Police Complaints; this office does excellent work in monitoring police activity in demonstrations, and in other areas of interaction with the community. I have worked with some of the OPC staff on programs for the DC Bar Communities. OPC does valuable work in exposing poor police practices, and in educating the public; I would support expanding their access to MPD documentation.
9. Yes, I would support a process for sealing name records, in order to protect the privacy of someone who has undergone general/sex changes. This is similar to HIPAA laws which already protect medical information of such persons. This would help to reduce overall discrimination in jobs and hiring, education and other areas.

HUMAN RIGHTS

10. There should be greater respect for the confidentiality of transgender persons (as noted above) so that this does not enter into the hiring process. The DC Office of Human Rights could be enlisted to support such rights. There also should be greater access to education and vocational programs, which would support transgender persons in entering the workforce.

YOUTH

11. LGBTQ youth in general deserve support, both through Government services and in grants to non-profit and community organization serving them. There is also a need to connect them to legal services which can ensure their rights are protected. Homeless youth deserve special services, through group or community housing, support in school and in vocational programs. Transitional housing should be developed where it does not exist.

SENIORS

12. I support improved services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including senior housing. I attended an event this past May, in support of Mary's Center – which will provide senior housing for LGBTQ persons in Ward 7. There should be other housing options of this type, which allow LGBTQ seniors to age in safety and in a community with others.
13. Where LGBTQ seniors are aging alone, there should be support through community outreach programs, both Governmental and non-governmental. Congregate meals and services may be provided through centers, or housing such as the Mary's Center program. Just as Senior Villages have been developed around the city, to support seniors "aging in place," there could be similar programs geared to the LGBTQ community.



CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES:

14. -15. I believe there should be restrictions on lobbying by city contractors, limitations on contributions to PACS, and greater transparency in campaign contribution law generally. Though there have been some advancements in recent years (such as the limitations on LLC contributions) DC has a long way to go in this area. I would require greater transparency by all bidders for city contracts; would require open bidding processes (no sole source bids) and other reforms which would ensure greater transparency in city contracting.

GENERAL RECORD:

In addition to the items noted above, I am a former member of the DC Commission for Women (1991-94), appointed by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly. In that capacity, I worked on women's issues generally, including new advancements in rights for grandparent caretakers, or "kinship care."

I was also the elected Board of Education member for Ward 2, from 1994-98. In that capacity, I worked on a range of education issues, including standards and accountability; curriculum reform and the establishment of the first charter schools in DC; and vocational education.

I am a 35-year resident of the District of Columbia (originally from Columbus, Ohio) who came to DC during my post-college years. I then attended law school at American University's Washington College of Law. I have long been active in DC Statehood issues (including being along-time member of the DC Statehood, now Statehood-Green, Party). I have lived in several of the wards of the city, including Wards 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 (from 2013-14). I currently reside in the Shepherd Park area of Northwest DC.

- Ann C. Wilcox