

HOUSING

1. Will you encourage the Department of Human Services to conduct monitoring of singles shelters to ensure that LGBTQ applicants are admitted to a shelter that corresponds to their gender identity and do not face discrimination while residing there, as required by law?

Yes. Our laws should be enforced. If they aren't, it is up to the Council to hold the Department of Human Services officials accountable. As Councilmember, I will take my oversight responsibilities seriously and ensure that our shelters are not discriminating against any resident seeking admission.

HEALTH

2. Will you press the Department 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?

Yes. As a report that “aspires to serve as a catalyst for a community rooted dialogue that leads us on a pathway to the best possible health outcomes for the LGBTQ community[,]” the annual LGBT Health Report must be rooted in the community. For this to have any meaning at all and for it to have significant impact, the Department of Health must engage with all stakeholders and seek participation from everyone.

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

Yes. As Councilmember, I will push for an increase in mental health and substance abuse treatment throughout our schools and shelters. If we can provide our residents with help and resources early, we can prevent heavier drug use, poverty, homelessness, violence, and even suicide later in life. I will also support data collection to enable the District to best localize its resources and funds. We should always be spending taxpayer money where its needed most.

4. Will you support legislation to boost public awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post- exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as options to prevent HIV infections through the distribution of information in health settings in accordance with Department of Health guidelines?

Yes. Decreasing HIV diagnoses takes a multi-faceted approach. Unfortunately, in the FY2019 local budget, the Council and Mayor decreased HIV prevention funding even though young Washingtonians are being diagnosed with HIV at almost twice the national rate. As Councilmember, I will reverse course and increase the funding for HIV prevention services, including funding to community-based providers and preventative options such as PrEP and PEP.

JUDICIARY

5. Will you support Bill 22-0515, 'Reducing Criminalization to Improve Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2017', to improve community safety and health by removing criminal penalties for engaging in commercial sex?

Yes. The criminalization of sex work achieves little and only leads to a cycle of violence, poverty, and incarceration. We should not be arresting residents engaging in commercial sex. We should be helping them find housing, receive job training, and get the health services they need. Criminalizing sex work only keeps vulnerable residents in the shadows, where access to basic necessities and services are inaccessible or unavailable.

6. What opportunities would you support through legislation to improve the lives of marginalized communities who engage in commercial sex work?

As Councilmember, I would allocate specific funds to community groups working within these communities to enable them to help with housing, employment, and health services.

7. What opportunities would you support through legislation to improve the lives of marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival?

As Councilmember, I would allocate specific funds to community groups working within these communities to enable them to help with housing, employment, and health services.

8. 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?

Yes. Systems that allow for agencies to pick and choose the data it wants to turn over are not systems designed for full transparency and accountability. It is the same reason why I believe the public should have a greater right to police body camera footage. Only with real transparency and full accountability will we be able to have open and honest dialogue between the community and law enforcement agencies.

9. Will you support legislation to develop an avenue for sealing court-ordered name and/or gender/sex change process?

Yes. If there is no countervailing public interest in keeping a specific record open to the public, name/gender/sex change records should be sealed from the public.

HUMAN RIGHTS

10. While the unemployment rate in the District is 6.6%, approximately half of transgender people in DC report being unemployed. What steps will you take to address this persisting economic disparity in a timely and sustainable manner?

As Councilmember, I would provide funds to not-for-profit organizations dedicated to helping the transgender community gain employment. I would also remove barriers created by occupational licenses; create a DC Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which would provide businesses with incentives to hire unemployed residents; hire DC residents to work DC government jobs and enforce agreements requiring companies hire DC residents; strengthen and invest more in our apprenticeship programs; ensure our schools are preparing students for both college as well as careers; grow and strengthen our technical school program; and repeal Initiative 77.

YOUTH

11. Will you support improved services and treatment for homeless LGBTQ youth, including transitional housing?

Yes. With nearly half of DC's homeless youth identifying as LGBTQ, we need to do more to help these residents. As Councilmember, I would increase funding to ensure there are enough shelter beds set aside for LGBTQ youth. I will also make sure there is adequate funding to provide the necessary resources, such as mental health professionals, medical care, and education, for these residents.

SENIORS

12. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including affirming senior housing?

We need to do a better job of ensuring all our seniors have the financial resources and the emotional and medical support to remain active members of our community. This includes spending money on community centers and seniors-specific activities. Also, as Councilmember, I will explore ways to make sure our seniors are able to continue to afford to live in their homes and have access to safe and affordable transportation.

13. LGBTQ seniors are more likely to age alone and face higher levels of economic insecurity and discrimination than non-LGBTQ seniors. Will you support funding for congregate meals and other services that specifically aim to keep LGBTQ seniors engaged in the community?

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CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

14. To fight the District's notorious 'pay-to-play' reputation, will you support enacting legislation that combines the best elements of Bills 22-8, 22-47, and 22-51?

We have a pay-to-play reputation because our elected officials do not hold each other accountable. Although they are colleagues, they need to call each other out for impropriety. That simply does not happen today. We also need to make sure that residents have options when it comes to electing their next Mayor or Councilmember. Partisan elections are incumbent protection plans. We need to move to nonpartisan elections, like many large, progressive cities around the country. Nebraska's Legislature holds nonpartisan elections and is unicameral like DC. As the Atlantic noted in 2015, "nonpartisan elections are more competitive races, higher voter participation, and a more 'functional legislature' that works more on coalition-building than party loyalty." Limiting contributions and transparency are helpful, but we need to fundamentally change our system and ultimately diversify our elected officials to overcome our earned reputation.

15. What steps will you take to ensure a transparent and equitable bidding process for city contracts?

All bids, contracts, and related records should be available online for any resident to see.