

Petar Dimtchev GLAA Questionnaire

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, the District needs to conduct continuing oversight to ensure that shelters comply with the law. An individual should never be denied services on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

HEALTH

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. It is imperative that the District produce a comprehensive, inclusive, and timely report. It is vital that community partners assist DOH in collecting accurate data. Special attention should be given to ensure that this report includes participation of the transgender community.

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, given the health disparities, it is very important to provide the resources and treatments necessary to underserved groups.

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, public awareness is key. In addition, we need to remove barriers to access.

JUDICIARY

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, I believe that the City should decriminalize commercial sex work. At the same time, this legislation needs to include strict prohibitions and penalties for human trafficking and sexual slavery.

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

Access to adequate healthcare, access to prophylactics, and safe housing.

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

Programs that provide the aforementioned services.

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.

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

Yes.

HUMAN RIGHTS

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?

I will work to strengthen the laws that prohibit discrimination and ensure proper enforcement.

YOUTH

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

Yes.

SENIORS

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

Yes.

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?

Yes.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

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?

I am deeply committed to eradicating the “pay-to-play” reputation and will support substantive legislation that addresses this.

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

I support a transparent and equitable bidding process for city contracts and will ensure this happens through the necessary oversight.