

**2018 GLAA Questionnaire  
For D.C. Council Candidates**

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 does not face discrimination while residing there, as required by law?

Yes. I will insist that the Department of Human Services monitor contract performance to ensure providers comply with DC laws that prohibit discrimination of LGBTQ applicants and residents at shelters that corresponds to their gender identity. Non-profit organizations operate shelters under contract with the Department of Human Services. As DC contractors, each provider is required to comply with DC laws. I will propose legislation to increase oversight and penalties to address violations within the shelter system

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?

I believe it is necessary for the annual LGBT Health Report to consist of data analysis on specific vulnerabilities of the LGBTQ community to include transgender individuals, unique generational needs, and others. I will encourage the Department of Health to work with a focused community advisory group of local partners to scope the efforts for an improved LGBT Health Report. I will press the Department of Health to allocate resources to meet the goal of thorough LGBT Health Reports in the future that best serve the community.

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?

I support budget appropriations that target funds to address LGBTQ health disparities, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. I will support legislation to mandate data collection on the LGBTQ population, and insist that sensitivity training is a component of such legislation, across all relevant DC programs?

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?



Dr. Rustin M. Lewis

**2018 GLAA Questionnaire  
For D.C. Council Candidates**

I will support legislation to increase public awareness of all substantiated options to prevent HIV infections in line with Department of Health guidelines.

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?

I support the Reducing Criminalization to Improve Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2017 introduced as Bill 22-0516. It is a progressive bill to improve public health and safety in DC.

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

I support legalization that has been adequately researched, extensively publicized, publicly discussed, and community supported to improve the lives of marginalized communities who engage in commercial sex work.

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

I would support legalization that has been adequately researched, extensively publicized, publicly discussed, and community supported to improve the lives of marginalized citizens who engage in commercial sex work.

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?

I would support and press for passage of a reintroduced Bill 20-63, 'Police Monitoring Enhancement Amendment Act of 2013' to give the Office of Police Complaints unfettered or equivalent access to information and supporting documentation of the covered law enforcement agencies. Strengthening the Office of Police Complaints would enhance transparency, accountability, and credibility of the law enforcement agencies.

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

I will support legislation to develop an avenue for sealing court-ordered name and/or gender/sex changes at the request of the individual seeking the change.



Dr. Rustin M. Lewis

**2018 GLAA Questionnaire  
For D.C. Council Candidates**

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?

My steps will include addressing the common practice of harassment of transgender individuals in the workplace and in hiring processes. I will press the DC Office of Human Rights to enhance efforts to settle complaints of unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and educational institutions, with specific emphasis on transgender individuals. I will also support comprehensive legislation to modernize workplace policies for businesses in DC that improve the treatment of transgender individuals.

An additional step will include affecting the educational deficit of transgender individual for improved chances at employment. I will encourage and support learning institutes, like the UDC Community College Division of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning to campaign to attract a transgender individual to provide free job training, literacy, and numeracy skills that enable will empower transgender individuals to pursue employment opportunities in key industries in the metropolitan area.

Another step will be to improve the economic state of transgender individuals. I will press the DC Department of Human Services to evaluate the inclusion of transgender individuals in the eligibility for benefits under the Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families, Medical Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and other assistance programs.

YOUTH

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

Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for youth. I will support legislative and budgetary actions to improve services and treatment for homeless LGBTQ youth, including transitional housing. One of the central areas of service improvement will be to support the development of a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week telephone line and mobile crisis teams of the DC Department of Behavioral Health and its certified behavioral health care providers to provide psychiatric and emotional to address the issue of suicide concerns and violence faced by transgender individuals. I also believe that there must be more focus on address factors that lead our youth into homelessness.

SENIORS



Dr. Rustin M. Lewis

**2018 GLAA Questionnaire  
For D.C. Council Candidates**

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

My platform is grounded on the premise of equity and therefore, I support legislative and budgetary actions to improve services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including affirming senior housing. I am concerned about the treatment of all seniors, but I am acutely aware of the blatant disregard, and lack of human decency conveyed to LGTBQ seniors.

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?

I will support funding for congregate meals and other services that specifically aim to keep LGBTQ seniors engaged in the community.

**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?

I would support legislation that combines the elements of Bills 22-8, 22-47, and 22-51 and virtually stop the pay-to-play system of donating to political campaigns in exchange of favor and kick-backs on DC contracts and grants.

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

I will insist that all contracting agencies comply with DC law to post all contracts, purchase orders, and purchase card transactions online and ensure transactions be timely made public to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and to invite public input.



Dr. Rustin M. Lewis