



Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2020 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

GLAA Ethics Disclaimer:

GLAA believes that elected officials are stewards of the public trust and therefore must hold themselves accountable to the highest ethical standards. GLAA, therefore, will not issue any rating for candidates who, in their capacity as elected officials, were expelled from any elected post, or resigned, for ethics violations that include, but are not limited to, conflicts of interest, self-dealing, and malfeasance.

HEALTH

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

Yes. I will support budgets that target LGBTQ health disparities, including mental health and substance abuse treatments. As a former hospital Vice President at United Medical Center, I saw firsthand the generational impact that substance abuse has on our community every day when left unaddressed. Further, I also support collecting more robust data on our LGBTQ community in order to have a better understanding of how District law and policies impact our LGBTQ residents.

2. Will you support Bill 23-435, the *Tony Hunter and Bella Evangelista Panic Defense Prohibition Act of 2019*?

Yes, I support the *Tony Hunter and Bella Evangelista Panic Defense Prohibition Act of 2019*. I do not think that one's sexual orientation should be the basis of a criminal defense. That sends the message to our LGBTQ community that we believe that their existence is an excuse for criminal behavior.

3. Will you support revision of the DC Riot Statute, Section 22-1322 of the District's penal code, to correct its overly broad language that allows abuse of prosecutorial discretion against individuals who exercise their First Amendment rights?

Yes. I would support revising the DC Riot Statute, because there should be no subjectivity when it comes to our First Amendment rights. The mere act of arresting an individual, even if it does not lead to a conviction, is a traumatizing experience that follows you throughout your life.

HUMAN RIGHTS

4. Will you support a Gender Equity and Neutrality in the Official Code Amendment Act to update the D.C. Official Code as necessary to ensure that outdated terms are removed or replaced as well as to utilize language inclusive of the gender diversity of our population?

Yes, I support efforts to ensure that language in the District's Official Code is inclusive, and reflective of our diverse communities and shared values.

5. Will you support Bill 23-0318, *Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2019*, to decriminalize consensual sex work for people 18 or older and create a task force to monitor the implementation and effects of the act?

I support the *Community Safety and Health Amendment Act* with amendments. I believe that the District can do a much better job to improve the health and safety of sex workers. I support the overall legislative intent of the bill, but want to ensure that purchasing sex, pimping, pandering, and brothel owning remain prohibited in the District. I support policies that erase prior convictions for sex work-related offenses to reduce barriers to employment for sex workers who are often vulnerable. I also support efforts to stay engaged with sex workers and sex worker advocates to ensure their needs are met. Finally, I support creating a task force, or having an existing office, monitor the implementation and effects of the law in whatever form the bill passes.

6. Will you support increased funding for LGBTQ budget priorities, including fully funding the Office of Human Rights and establishing a new competitive community development grant program in the Office of LGBTQ Affairs?

Yes, I support driving more resources to prop up the Office of Human Rights and the Office of LGBTQ Affairs, so that these offices can play a larger role in ensuring that city employment, services, and outreach is inclusive and culturally sensitive. I also support establishing a community development grant program to ensure that our LGBTQ residents have access to economic opportunities to better our community.



7. Will you support a study of employment of transgender individuals in the government of the District of Columbia as a first step to creating a truly inclusive workplace and the implementation of transgender employment initiatives?

Yes, I believe that the best way to shed light on and bring attention to employment issues, specifically those facing our transgendered community, is to collect data, study it, and have a data-driven approach on how to tackle the innate biases, especially in employment, that exist and harm our transgendered community.

YOUTH

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

Yes, I absolutely support improved services and treatment for homeless LGBTQ youth. LGBTQ youth in the District are one of our most vulnerable populations in the city, who are often ostracized and left with no support from their families. That is why I believe housing, including transitional housing, is one of the biggest issues for our LGBTQ youth, many of whom become homeless once they live in their truth. I also think that it is the city's responsibility to ensure our public services reach those who need it most.

SENIORS

9. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including affirming senior housing and tenant based rental assistance and the Care for LGBTQ Seniors and Seniors with HIV Amendment Act of 2019?

Yes, I support improved services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including senior housing and tenant-based rental assistance, particularly for our senior citizens who struggle with isolation and feel disconnected from the city. I know that isolation and disconnection is a huge issue, especially for LGBTQ seniors. I also fully support the *Care for LGBTQ Seniors and Seniors with HIV Amendment Act of 2019*. It is imperative to drive additional resources for District residents who are most in need, and expressly stating that LGBTQ seniors and seniors with HIV are identified as groups with the greatest social need. I also think that it is critical to ensure that our LGBTQ seniors know all their rights when it comes to long-term care.

HOME RULE

10. Will you oppose Trump administration efforts to nullify the legal identities of transgender individuals, such as by assigning a person's gender based on their "original" birth certificate?

Yes, I will oppose Trump administration efforts to assign a person's gender based on their "original" birth certificate. This outdated and offensive interpretation erases decades of work for equal rights and treatment of our LGBTQ community.



Please give more than a simple "yes" or "no" response to our questions – though you should begin with a "yes" or "no." The depth and completeness of your answers play a major role in determining your final rating.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of LGBTQ people. Feel free to attach relevant documents such as letters to the editor, legislative testimony, campaign literature, etc.

- As a Board member of Widow's Pantry, we serve our homeless residents food, clothing, and connect them with social services at various locations around the District. Unfortunately, many of the residents we serve identify as LGBTQ and are in need of dire services. In these parks and under bridges you can really see how our LGBTQ residents often suffer because of their identity.
- As the Legislative Director to former Ward 8 Councilmember May, I encouraged her to support B21-0804, the *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Health Disparities Documentation Act of 2016* to require the Department of Health to include questions pertaining to the respondents' sexual orientation and gender identity among other questions related to LGBTQ.
- Although I have not had many public opportunities to express my support for the LGBTQ community, I do want to ensure that I expressly state that I will be a thought partner and include LGBTQ leaders and policy experts at the table to make sure that the District provides adequate access to the necessary supports and services to our LGBTQ community at all levels: youth, adults, and seniors.

Please return your questionnaire responses by Friday, April 17 via email, preferably as an attachment in PDF format (for loading on GLAA's website), to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'Z' or '8' with a horizontal line extending to the right.