

Nate Derenge

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?

Although data collection and timely reporting are essential for publicly-funded programs, I consider targeted spending on specific populations to not belong to the 'public good'.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

No, I trust the juries to be able to judge someone's innocence or guilt without denying a certain argument to the defendant.

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?

'...Tumultuous and violent conduct or the threat thereof creates grave danger of damage or injury to property or persons' seems clear to me with the use of the word 'grave'. This statute appears be reserved for real instances of 'grave danger'. So I don't support a revision at this time.

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Equity and Neutrality in the Official Code Amendment Act to update the D.C. Official Code as necessary to ensure that outdated terms are removed or replaced as well as to utilize language inclusive of the gender diversity of our population?

No, I generally support the criminal code to be reserved for criminal acts, and not to legislate against other's choice of words that should be protected by their freedom of speech.

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?

No, sex work is not helpful for Ward 8, since it does not generate steady incomes and is detrimental to strong families.

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?

No, I believe the role of local government is to create a safe environment for people and organizations to freely live and operate, not to financially support the interests of specific groups.

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?

No, the DSM-4 classifies Gender Identity Disorder as a disturbance that causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. I believe we shouldn't be validating or promoting this formerly-classified disorder with the authority of the district government.

YOUTH

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

Homelessness is a complex issue that DC hasn't solved, and selectively supporting specific homeless populations is not a part of my platform. My platform focuses on increase employment opportunities by decreasing regulation, so homeless LGBTQ youth can get a job if they're done with school and support themselves. Alternatively, I'm supportive of public-private partnerships that address homeless and foster youth, in order to give the best opportunities to our young residents while they are in their critical developmental stages of life.

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?

No, I don't believe that population has the 'greatest social need' as stated in the act. People with disabilities are in greater need.

HOME RULE

10. 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?

No. Also, Trump may not be in office if he loses and I win.