

Stuart Anderson

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 20020 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!

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

While I understand Bill 23-435, I can not support any piece of legislation that would strip people of their basic rights. The right to present a defence would be in jeopardy were we to across the board deny accused persons the ability to put forth the defense. I think legislative efforts to categorically prohibit certain defenses chip away at the foundational principles of our criminal justice system by undermining well-established rules of evidence that serve to balance principles of relevance and due process rights of accused persons. I am open to looking at less intrusive approaches.

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! The broad language allows abuses that I believe The First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech. Freedom of speech gives us the right to express ourselves without having to worry about government interference. It's the most basic component of freedom of expression. I think because of the broad language law enforcement and

the courts often struggled to determine what types of speech is protected. We must fix this, for the safety of all.

HUMAN RIGHT

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Equity and Neutrality in the Official Code Amendment Act to update the D.C. Official Code as necessary to ensure that outdated terms are removed or replaced as well as to utilize language inclusive of the gender diversity of our population?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 believe that from time to time D.C.'s Official Code must be revisited to ensure that our criminal codes reflect societal changes.

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 have to be honest I am having trouble with this Bill. I am open to further discussion and want to hear more from the task force or exploratory groups on the matter. I believe that more study and recommendations are vital regarding: the effects and unintended consequences of the Reducing Criminalization of Commercial Sex Amendment Act of 2019. I am open to making changes to criminal penalties for commercial sex, and coming up with support for individuals engaging in commercial sex in the District of Columbia.

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?

I know that the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs provides services and information to the LGBTQ communities through community outreach and public education activities. I would take my lead from that office. I can't say that I would support increasing funding at this time, as that I would have to access the current level of funding against the needs. I can say that I am supportive of fully funding the Office of Human Rights, and I will look into developing a competitive grant program.

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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?

In an effort to fully support all members of the communities of Washington, I would support a study of employment to access the inclusivity in the workplace and consider the need for the possible implementation of transgender employment policies

YOUTH

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

Yes. The state of our youth when it comes to housing is an issue that is on my radar. I intend to do what is necessary to highlight these issues and to put forth viable solutions to cover gaps in services and support for our youth..

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 LGBT Seniors and Senior with HIV Amendment Act of 2019?

Yes! I make no difference between our senior population, and will work to support legislation which will increase support for our residents in this area of concern.

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?

I am working hard to support change which I trust will be successful at removing the current president, and his racist and privileged administration from office. He and his policies are hateful and work against the greater public interest.

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.

Your answers should be typed in a separate document rather than on this form. You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Friday, April 17, to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013; or email it as an attachment in PDF format (for loading on GLAA's website) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

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As the logistics coordinator and co-chair for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Walk and Parade I have worked with representatives of LGBTQ organizations with the goal of having the parade reflect the diversity of our city. Over the past 8 years, I have been in different leadership roles with the organizing of the commemoration of Dr. King's life and legacy. I took pleasure in working with the late Jerry Clark (a local gay activist) and other LGBTQ persons on our organizing committee <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2015/01/16/lgbt-contingent-march-mlk-parade/>.

Also, I helped to organize and marched with the MLK Holiday DC contingent for the Capital Pride Parade a few times. As the former Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC) community engagement specialist I have worked with Check It Enterprises. The ACC executive director Philip Pannell and I were involved in outreaching to LGBTQ individuals and organizations throughout the city to involve them in ACC activities. I am a DC Democratic Party Ward 8 Committeeman and ran on the Dump Trump slate with several LGBTQ candidates. However, the continuous action that best demonstrates my support for LGBTQ people is the support that I give and the unconditional love I have for my grandson Tayvohn Who by his own admission is neither he/him/his nor she/her/hers but other.

Thank you for this opportunity to share.