



## 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. The last time the DC government reported on the health of the LGBT Community in a very comprehensive way was done in 2013. That report needs to be updated by the Bowser Administration promptly. I will make sure that DC government agencies timely report on the LGBTQ populations from now on. One way of having a positive impact in the budget is increasing funding to the very community-based organizations that provide direct services to the LGBTQ communities.

### JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

- Yes, I will spend political capital to make sure this bill becomes law. No crime should be excused or justified because of the victim's identity. A jury must be instructed not to be biased in our court system while deliberating on this type of crimes or assaults whatsoever.

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 will. The more specific a law is the better for all of us either interpreting, applying or following such law.



## 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Equity and Neutrality in the Official Code Amendment Act to update the D.C. Official Code as necessary to ensure that outdated terms are removed or replaced as well as to utilize language inclusive of the gender diversity of our population?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 will. I believe that is time advance gender equity and neutrality in the official language we use in the District of Columbia. I agree with the statement that *“language matters, language holds power”* and that our DC Official Code should be updated accordingly.

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?

- Yes, I will support it. I stand with the LGBT rights groups that last year came out to express their position in favor of decriminalizing prostitution in the District of Columbia. It is well known that there are members of the Council and some Council candidates for the November 2020, who are not interested in entertaining any type of discussions on this matter but I do not think that the right approach. I agree with those who think that this issue needs to be taken from the perspective of health, safety, and human rights. A Task Force to help in the implementation and monitoring process of the Act can be very valuable.

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 will support increasing funding and grants programs for LGBTQ budget priorities. I am aware of the frustration of some LGBT activists when they encounter mismanagement or inefficiencies from appointed officials on issues related to the LGBTQ Community including at the DC Office of Human Rights. The DC government agency is in charge of enforcing our laws and regulations and we expect them to perform expeditiously and within a reasonable timeframe. When elected DC At-Large Councilmember, from day one I would work with LGBT stakeholders and the Bowser Administration to make sure that DC Office of Human Rights performs its duties in a more effective and efficient manner to avoid any long backlog of any discrimination cases under their purview.

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 will. The DC government should be an example for diversity and openness in employing transgender individuals while implementing equitable employment initiatives.

## **YOUTH**

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

- Yes, I will. More funding opportunities should be given to LGBTQ organizations as a first step. Affordable Housing is the number one issue in DC overall and the DC government must include LGBTQ youth homelessness in their development projects as well.

## **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?

- As a nonprofit executive, I have worked in institutions and organization providing housing for diverse communities including seniors. The LGBTQ senior population in DC deserve better attention among us. If elected I will work with Councilmembers Anita Bonds and Mary Cheh pass this piece of legislation into law.

## **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 adamantly oppose this effort from the Trump administration. Period.

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"Together We Can"