



Leave No One Behind 2022 GLAA Questionnaire

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 link relevant documents such as letters to the editor, legislative testimony, campaign literature, etc.

Housing

- Do you support providing sufficient affordable housing units for all households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), such as, allocating vacant apartments to very low-income households, ensuring sufficient funds for the Housing Production Trust Fund are dedicated to these renters, and strengthening inclusionary zoning laws?

Yes. I have been an active member of the District of Columbia's Association of Realtors, Public Policy Committee for many years. I am a past chair and past Board member. As a member, I have testified at DC Council hearings and advocated for affordable housing options so that families can stay in the District of Columbia. I co-host monthly free homebuying workshops where I present on the various grant and tax programs available to homebuyers in the District of Columbia. Many of these programs are not utilized because people do not know that they exist. This includes HPAP that gives up to \$84,000 toward a home purchase, DC Open Doors that provide all of the required down payment, the tax abatement that allows for the homebuyer not to pay real property taxes for five years, reduced recordation that cuts the recordation tax at settlement in half and the homestead and senior citizen real property tax credit.

As the Ward 3 Councilmember I will introduce and support legislation that is based in my belief that housing is a human right and that no one should have to pay more than 30% of their income on housing. We need more affordable housing in Ward 3. The current target is to bring 1,990 new units to Rock Creek Wesley that will be dedicated to affordable housing, for people making between 30% and 80% of the area's median family income by 2025. These are our neighbors who are teachers, police officers, fire fighters, government workers, retail and restaurant workers, persons with disabilities and our seniors many of whom are on fixed income. The first 93 units will be for senior living. But that is not enough. We need considerably more affordable senior units and we must ensure that there

are affordable units for working families with three or more bedrooms and that there is workforce housing units.

We must close the loopholes in the Inclusionary Zoning rules that allow developers to put in the bare minimum of affordable units. For example, the City Ridge, the former site of Fannie Mae on Wisconsin Ave, will have 750 new units but only 70 units will be affordable. The Wardman Park will have 900 units with only 72 affordable under the IZ requirements. That is not nearly enough.

I am in support of increasing the funds in the Historic Preservation Trust. But we need more oversight in how the funds are being used and how they are being administered. If we are going to achieve 1,990 affordable units by 2025, Ward 3 needs a Councilmember that will look at creative ways to get this done.

We need to explore all options like community land trust, limited equity cooperatives, incentives to small landlords, and small area plans. We have to ask the tough questions and then take action. Which locations in the ward can we increase density, convert vacant buildings into residential or mixed use. How can we work with UDC to bring on campus housing to their Van Ness campus? As the Ward 3 Councilmember I will advocate for affordable housing units at the Lord and Taylor site and the WMATA bus garage in Friendship Heights. New development cannot displace Ward 3 residents or its small business owners and there is no one size fits all solution for the diverse neighborhoods in Ward 3. Although I believe that the 1,990 units of affordable housing needs to be spread across the ward, I recognize that we must keep the character of each neighborhood in mind as well as the needs of the residents, workers and small business owners in those neighborhoods. The housing policies that have led to racial and economic exclusion must now be replaced with policy that builds inclusive communities.

- Do you support improving access to housing voucher programs by increasing the number available, as advocated for by The Way Home Campaign and LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition, and reforming program eligibility rules?

Yes. I am in strong support of housing policies that reduces chronic homelessness. This includes Permanent Support Housing voucher and Street Outreach. I am against the encampment evictions and believe that all people need to be treated humanely. If we are going to clear encampments, we have to provide housing for those displaced and wrap around services. There needs to be a plan in place before the encampments are cleared about where each and every resident will go and what services he/she/they may need. We cannot under any circumstances destroy or throw away residents' personal belongings. We must be more thoughtful about how we proceed. What is happening is shameful. A stable, safe and healthy life starts with housing. WE need to reform program eligibility to assist those without photo identification the ability to still qualify for housing. Many unhoused individuals do not have the necessary documents to obtain an ID, but they need housing now. Let's get them in housing and then work with them to obtain what is needed.

Workers' Rights

- Do you support enacting legislation decriminalizing sex work for adults, including the selling and purchasing of sex and third party involvement not involving fraud, violence or coercion?

Yes. I am in favor of full decriminalization of sex work between consenting adults. Sex workers in DC are often black, of the LGBTQ + community and have socioeconomic circumstances that require them to conduct sex work in order to secure housing, food and health care. By decriminalizing we will allow sex workers the opportunity to work in safe environments, not on the streets. Sex workers will be more likely to seek the social services that they need if they can do so safely. Full decriminalization will also encourage the reporting of violence against sex workers and human trafficking.

- Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

Yes. By ending the subminimum wage for tipped workers we will level the racial and economic divide for service workers. We should pay service workers \$15-\$20 an hour. I have signed the petition in support of putting Initiative 82 on the ballot. If I am the Ward 3 Councilmember when the vote comes up, I will vote yes. I was a tipped worker during portions of my life. Three of my five children have or are tipped workers. Everyone deserves livable wages.

- Do you support funding the Office of Human Rights (OHR) at a level that ensures the agency ends its case backlog, completes discrimination cases in a timely manner, and effectively engages in community education and outreach?

Yes. I am in support of funding the Office of Human Rights at the levels needed for them to be effective and efficient. If we are truly in support of enforcing the DC Human Rights Act we have to make sure that the office charged with it has the funds to get the job done. Discrimination cases cannot take years or months. This office clearly needs funds to increase the number of trained staff.

Health

- Do you support establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District to reduce deaths from drug overdoses?

Yes. We must first recognize as a society that drug addiction is a disease. Once we remove the stigma associated with drug addiction we can literally save lives. Overdose prevention facilities are as important as other medical service locations. If those addicted to drugs have a safe place to go to get Naloxone and other services we can start to identify and help those who are in need of treatment services.

- Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?

Yes. I am in support of removing criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services. I also think that past criminal records involving the possession of drugs in personal use quantities be expunged. The criminalization of drugs for personal use disproportionately negatively effect the marginalized populations and has long term consequences such as not being able to get a job due to have a criminal record involving drug possession.

Policing and incarceration

- Do you support reducing D.C.'s total pre-COVID-19 incarcerated population by one-third to one-half by FY30?

Yes. We can reduce overcrowding at DC jail by releasing non-violent low level offenders and implementing community supervision.

- Do you support better oversight, transparency, and accountability in the process of investigating and improving D.C. jails, including establishing an independent oversight body, addressing issues impacting transgender individuals, repairing jails, and changing staff culture?

Yes, I am in support of oversight of DC Jail. We must invest in a new DC jail. But also need to make sure that all inmates are being treated humanely. This means access to a safe, clean environment. Access to health care, mental health services, healthy and sanitary food. As we know, a large majority of those incarcerated are Black people. This is a human rights issue as well as a racial justice issue

- Do you support divesting from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to further invest in vital programs, including anti-poverty, violence prevention, crisis intervention, and reentry?

No, I am not in support of divesting from MPD. I think that we need to fund both MPD and social service programs. We need more community-oriented policing in our communities which means we need to recruit in the community – not in New York City. But, we also need police reform, police record transparency, and criminalize tactics such as chokeholds. The mandatory use of bodycams, must be enforced and consequences must be implemented for non-use. WE need to remove police officers form our schools and replace them school resource officer that have the opportunity to interact and get to know the students. All 911 calls do not require a police response. This is one reason we have over policing. Some of those calls require behavioral health services. We also need more community divergence programs rather than sending our residents to DC Jail or even worse out of the District away from their families and support system. I believe we need to reach the youth in a meaningful way working with community based organizations and after school and summer programs. I am in support of funding that will provide the

services that get at the root causes of crime. It is not one or the other. Both MPD and programs are needed in our communities.

*Please return your questionnaire responses in PDF format **by 11:59pm ET on Friday, April 22** [here](#). If you have trouble submitting your response through the form, you can email it to equal@glaa.org. GLAA will rate each response at our meeting on April 26 at 7pm ET.*