

**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
		- Building new housing in Ward 3 and across the District will be one of my top priorities as Councilmember. While DC’s housing crisis has made it harder for most Washingtonians to afford their rent, it has disparately impacted LGBTQ+ people. Put simply, making DC an affordable place to live is a pro-LGBTQ+ policy that will help our city even livelier.

I am strongly supportive of efforts to fill vacant units, fully fund the HPTF, and strengthen our IZ laws. When on the Council I will advocate for IZ reform that both increases the number of IZ units that must be constructed and concentrates the program’s expanded benefits on households with lower AMI.

* 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 wholly supportive of the plan being advocated by the The Way Home Campaign and LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition. Improving access to housing vouchers is undeniably good policy and is an important step towards the lofty goal of finally eradicating recurring homelessness in the District. I believe that reforming eligibility rules is common-sense and will create a more inclusive system. I’m especially supportive of measures that will better safeguard immigrants during the application process.

**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 know that this has been a controversial issue in the past, but I won’t waffle or flip-flop on protecting the health and safety of sex workers. I believe that the District should decriminalize (and subsequently regulate) the consensual selling and purchasing of sex to ensure better health outcomes for sex workers, enable them to seek law enforcement support or other government services when in danger, and reap the benefits of opening up a system previously barred from operation. As an intersectional feminist, I know that people with certain underprivileged identities are most likely to be harmed by laws criminalizing sex work and I see sanctioning the practice as an act of racial, queer, and women’s justice.
* Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers?
	+ YES
		- The subminimum wage is an unfair labor practice that harms tipped workers. I will proudly vote to abolish the subminimum wage on June 21 and encourage all voters to do the same. As Councilmember, I will never vote to overturn *any* ballot initiative passed by voters in a fair and free election, especially this one. Supporting one fair wage is exciting, but let’s not stop there –– I also support raising the minimum wage beyond $15.20.
* 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
		- If the District truly believes in protecting the human rights of its residents, it must commit to finally fully funding the Office of Human Rights and its many essential activities. Case backlogs and delays are unjust and preventable. It’s past time to ensure that the office can fulfill its mission and expand its outreach efforts with support from the Council. Once elected, I will support this item and treat it like a priority.

**Health**

* Do you support establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District to reduce deaths from drug overdoses?
	+ YES
		- The research is clear: overdose prevention facilities save lives. I am in favor of establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District and would prefer locating them in the communities historically harmed by drug addiction. While such facilities are a significant step toward expanding treatment and recovery options, it is not a panacea. I also support expanding DCHealth’s already impressive education and distribution efforts centered around products like the life-saving drug naloxone.
* Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?
	+ YES
		- Decriminalizing drug possession for personal use is a racial justice and public health issue. Criminalizing addiction demonizes people struggling with substance use disorder rather than providing them with the support that they need to recover. Alleviating key indicators of poverty is a priority of mine and funding increased health services investments is a prime way to achieve that goal.

**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
		- In order to repair broken communities and move past the historical harms of the disproportionate incarceration of people of color, the DC government must take legislative action to reduce the city’s incarcerated population. I am supportive of recentering our criminal justice system to focus on rehabilitation and release rather than retributive punishments. We both need to reduce the amount of individuals entering the criminal justice system and release many currently incarcerated individuals who have made steps toward rehabilitation and are serving time for non-violent offenses.
* 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
		- In the unfortunate circumstance that an individual must be incarcerated to protect society, the government has a responsibility to provide for their safety and comfort. In short, we must ensure that all incarcerated individuals have a positive living environment that steers the population toward rehabilitation. As Councilmember, I will strongly support increased oversight, transparency, and accountability regarding all parts of the criminal justice system, including the DC jail.

I favor the creation of an independent oversight body, as well as an advocate focused on supporting the needs of incarcerated individuals. In order to protect residents of the DC jail, the government needs individuals inside the system who can act as whistleblowers and sound the alarm.

Creating a culture that protects the safety of LGBTQ+ residents while they are incarcerated is of paramount importance and I will support any and all policies that effectively achieve that task.

* 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?
	+ - While I am in favor of reallocating some existing Metropolitan Police Department funding to ensure that the city’s violence and crime prevention efforts, as well as its community support, are fully funded. I believe that MPD is an important partner in the District’s public safety strategy, but it can’t be our first or only option. By funding alternative community safety mechanisms in addition to key MPD responsibilities, the District can maximize its efforts to protect residents and reduce crime without relying solely on officers who may be trained or well-equipped to address many potential incidents.

*Please return your questionnaire responses in PDF format* ***by 11:59pm ET on Friday, April 22*** [*here*](https://forms.gle/BY2LdSwFxyURMwRN8)*. 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.*