

**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.*

Beau Finley

<https://beaufinley.com/>

Ward 3 DC Council

beaufinleyforcouncil@gmail.com

202-743-0454

**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. Housing is a human right. In addition, we need new, innovative tools to obtain more housing, especially affordable housing and extremely low-income housing.

I have proposed the following:
	+ Fully fund the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF).
	+ Use the HPTF to purchase current and proposed inclusionary zoning units to make them available to households at or below 30% AMI, with the units operated by the District or experienced non-profits. This is similar to a successful Montgomery County program designed to create more deeply affordable housing.
	+ Expand rent stabilization to buildings built more than 15 years ago. Our rent controlled housing stock is dwindling - housing built after 1975 is not subject to our rent stabilization law. Rent stabilized housing provides below market-rate rental opportunities for those on fixed incomes or in the workforce. On a personal note, I live in a rent controlled apartment and would be the only renter on Council.
	+ Invest in social housing. Social housing, where ⅓ is deeply affordable (0-30% AMI), ⅓ is affordable (30-80% AMI), and ⅓ is market rate, has been successful in other cities, like Vienna and Singapore. If the new Wardman proposal of 900 units were to be social housing, rather than relying on inclusionary zoning, we would be adding 600 units of affordable housing instead of a mere 72.
	+ DC should use its powers under the District Opportunity to Purchase Act to build up a portfolio of current apartment buildings from which it can use net revenues to build or procure more housing.
	+ Create a District-level Low-Income Housing Tax Credit that gives an incentive to build more deeply affordable housing.
* 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! Beyond this, though, we need to allocate ~100 vouchers to be issued by the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs with a set-aside for LGBTQ+ seniors who are often at higher risk of homelessness, especially after a partner or spouse dies.

**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. Sex work is work and workers deserve all the protections of the state to perform their work, just like everybody else. I also support the right of sex workers to organize for better protections, licensing, and would support the creation of instruments akin to project labor agreements to provide further protection for sex workers.
* Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

Yes, if by repealing it, the tipped minimum wage is replaced with the current minimum wage. I voted for Initiative 77 in 2018 and will vote for Initiative 82 this summer. In addition, I would not overturn a referendum.
* 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. OHR needs more staff and better staff performance metrics to ensure its efficient operation.

**Health**

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

Yes. In my part of the District, we tend to overlook or forget about the District’s opioid crisis and drug problems overall. We need safe spaces, including those that offer judgment-free care. Substance abuse is unfortunately higher among the LGBTQ+ community, and understandably so, given the discrimination and lack of support the community faces.

New York City’s centers seem to work well and could provide a model in the District. When we look at places that have fully decriminalized drugs, we see a stabilization in drug use - there are some folks who, no matter what, will continue with drug use. Making things safe is the least we can do.
* Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?

Yes. It’s 2022. We should always offer no-cost treatment options for those who want to break from their chronic drug use. In 2022, decriminalization and complementary investments in health services should be common sense, evidence from around the world on how this can be done successfully.

**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, but we cannot abandon our formerly incarcerated residents once they are out of our prisons. We must provide opportunity and support to help people to rebuild their lives, not only to prevent recidivism, but because basic human dignity requires us to do so.
* 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. The horrors we’ve seen inflicted upon Trans\* people at the D.C. jail are the result of a disturbing combination of a lack of Council oversight and transphobia at the D.C. jail. While a new jail and recently revised policies will ideally provide for safer experiences, an independent oversight body - or even a dedicated Council committee with dedicated staff - would go a long way to making sure that we treat all those in our criminal justice system humanely.
* 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?

We have rising crime, rising poverty, and rising income inequality across the District. Studies show that income inequality and/or poverty influence crime, especially violent crime, so we need to address these root causes if we wish to positively affect public safety. We must reinvest in our communities if we hope to see a long-term reduction in crime across the District.

In the short term, we need to increase our crisis intervention, violence interruption, and reentry programs. I’m interested in trying cash transfer programs due to their success at decreasing violence in Chicago.

We currently have the sixth largest police force in the nation, despite being the 20th largest city. We also have a budget surplus and rising income taxes this fiscal year so we can maintain our current level of funding for MPD *and* invest in vital programs that will provide a long-term decrease in crime.

As I mentioned above, we must invest in our communities if we wish to increase public safety over the long term. That means investing in anti-poverty programs, eliminating chronic homelessness and housing insecurity by providing substantially more amounts of affordable housing, and improving our schools with better capital upkeep and robust at-risk and special education funding.

I do not know what the right size of our police force is at this time, but I would rather examine our current *approach* to preventing crime before making decisions on our immediate police force size. For example, a 2017 assessment of MPD by the D.C. Auditor indicated that MPD officers spend 22% of their time on calls for service, far below other similarly sized cities.

*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.*