



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. Currently 50% of the funds in the Housing Production Trust Fund are supposed to be reserved for very low income housing by statute, however there is a glitch that allows the mayor to waive this requirement and spend a majority of the funds on higher income housing. As a Legislative Director on the DC Council, I supported initiatives to ensure that more of the Housing Production Trust Fund is spent on housing units for households earning less than 30% AMI.
 - I also support strengthening inclusionary zoning laws to create more affordable housing units downtown and to increase the inventory of affordable housing units throughout the District.
 - When I was a Legislative Director on the DC Council, I supported legislation to expand rent control. This legislation will increase the number of units covered under rent control by allowing apartments built after 1975 to be included in rent control, decreasing the frequency with which landlords can raise rents on tenants, and limiting the amount of rent increases to the rate of inflation.
- 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 absolutely support increasing the number of housing vouchers available through housing voucher programs as advocated for by the Way Home Campaign and the LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition. I also agree that program eligibility rules should be streamlined to prevent administrative barriers to entry.
 - For the past several years, my wife and I have made recurring monthly contributions to the Wanda Alston Foundation that provides housing for LGBTQ+

youth who are experiencing housing instability. My wife was also on the board of the Wanda Alston Foundation for three years. We understand that LGBTQ+ youth and adults may face increased risk of housing insecurity because of discrimination in society and for that reason we actively donate to organizations that support housing initiatives for the LGBTQ+ community in DC.

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 should be legalized and regulated to protect workers and prevent trafficking. Sex work is work like any other profession and sex workers deserve to be protected and respected.
- Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers?
 - Yes. Tipped workers should not have to work for less than the area minimum wage and then earn tips to boost their wages up to the area minimum wage level. I believe that tipped workers should make the normal minimum wage plus tips. This has been done successfully in California and other municipalities.
 - As Council Member, I will not overturn a vote by the people of DC to increase wages for tipped workers. My wife and I were very involved in the Initiative 77 campaign as she was the Treasurer for the initiative and we were very disappointed to see the DC Council overturn the will of the people. Not only do I support Initiative 82 this time around, but if elected to the DC Council, I promise not to overturn the will of the people.
- 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 have supported fully funding the Office of Human rights each budget cycle when I was a Council Staffer. I believe that the OHR is an invaluable office that is needed to reduce discrimination in the District. Therefore, OHR should be fully funded to prevent backlog and to support the timely resolution of discrimination cases.

Health

- Do you support establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District to reduce deaths from drug overdoses?
 - Yes. I support creating overdose prevention facilities in the District to save lives. The opioid epidemic has worsened during the pandemic and our response needs to reflect this worsening. Our goal should be no deaths from overdoses in the District and we need to do the work necessary to reach that goal, including by establishing overdose prevention facilities.
- Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?
 - Yes. Criminal penalties should be reserved for serious crimes. Drug dependence is a mental health disorder and not a crime. We need to invest more in mental health

services to address drug dependence and less in criminalizing people who suffer from substance abuse disorder.

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. Mass incarceration is not helping to reduce crime rates in the District. Incarceration should be reserved for situations that have no other reasonable recourse.
- 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. DC jails need improvement in many areas, including how transgender individuals are impacted. Increased oversight and communication with the LGBTQ+ community can help inform how to improve conditions in DC jails. More transparency and accountability is also key to reforming DC jails.
 - As the Committee Director of the DC Council Committee on Libraries, Recreation, and Youth Affairs, I oversaw DYRS and sought to bring more accountability to and transparency to the agency, particularly centering the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth facing encounters with the system.
- 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?
 - Yes. The services provided by MPD need to be used more effectively. Directing resources away from MPD to invest in anti-poverty, violence prevention, crisis intervention and reentry can help MPD do the work that is best suited for police.

*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.*