

**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, my entire housing platform (gorefordc.com/priorities) is based on a justice-first approach which means providing housing for those who need it the most first. The need for affordable housing in this city is beyond a crisis point, and the numbers are staggering. DC has over 40,000 people on the waiting list for subsidized housing, over 5,000 unhoused residents, close to 30% of Black renters spending 50% or more of their income on housing, and one in four renter households spending more than 50% of their income on rent. We do not do enough to meet the housing needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and other communities with varying housing needs like victims of domestic violence and LBGTQ+ youth.

I will integrate community land trusts and social housing models that center permanent affordability, avoid resident displacement, and build assets for residents and their families; fund public housing repairs so units are rehabilitated and maintained to prevent future deterioration; and preserve affordable housing units by strengthening rent control, closing loopholes, and strengthening tenant protections. In addition, I will invest in place-based strategies to ensure affordable housing of all types, including family-sized units, is distributed equitably throughout DC and implement strategies that will examine the development of publicly owned land and the use of publicly owned properties to create targeted affordable housing. I also realize that our housing decisions are deeply connected to issues of justice, especially for the LGBTQ community. For example, our current at-large councilmember, who chairs the committee on housing and executive administration, led the bill that exempted single-family homeowners from TOPA. Because of that bill, a safe-house run in Brightwood by No Justice No Pride, which houses over 50 Black and brown transgender women a night in five different homes in D.C., was placed under threat by a landlord that wanted to sell the home. Had we not had that exemption from TOPA, that protection for our Black and brown trans women would not have been weakened.

* 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?

Absolutely. The housing voucher program has deep issues of access and I support The Way Home Campaign and LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition to increase the number of vouchers and reform program eligibility rules. In particular, the Mayor’s current proposed budget does not include enough funding to even address the large waitlist of people waiting for vouchers. Our current at-large council member, who chairs the committee on housing and executive administration, expressed surprise that such a waitlist even exists. Our leadership needs to fund and expand the voucher eligibility program. Specifically, we also should be funding Targeted Affordable Housing vouchers, which can also be used to help families who cannot avail DC’s Rapid Rehousing Program. I also support funding Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) vouchers to ensure those who urgently need permanent rental assistance can access housing. Finally, these resources should be available for both single adults and families.

**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 believe sex work is work and believe in decriminalization of sex work. I would like to see us follow New Zealand’s model of decriminalizing sex work, which offers protections from coercion and other broad support for those engaging in sex work.

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

I do, and it is part of my broader platform for economic justice and workers rights. I support Initiative 82, the District of Columbia Tip Credit Elimination Act of 2021, which would end the tip credit by 2027 by gradually raising the mandatory base wage to match the city's minimum wage, and I’m the only candidate in this race that pledged this support in my economic justice platform from day one.

* 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, we cannot achieve justice for our community if we do not enact justice in a timely manner. The Office of Human Rights needs consistency in its funding yearly. With the increase of Asian hate crimes, and attacks on Black and brown trans women, I would like to see the office expand. As an oversight professional, I will give extensive review of the city’s budget to make sure funding is appropriated responsibly to this agency.

**Health**

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

Yes, overdose prevention facilities have shown evidence in the peer-reviewed literature to save lives and project communities. The work of HIPS DC is a prime example of how we work as a community to reduce drug related deaths. As we establish these facilities, it will be important to work hand in hand with organizations that do the effective ground work to save lives.

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

Absolutely. This is not only a health issue, but a community justice issue as well. As a Justice First candidate, I acknowledge the wrongs our criminal justice system has established on drug possession for Black and brown families.

**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, my public safety platform is based on prevention, intervention, and investment in communities. The incarceration population in DC is too high, and is exceptionally dangerous for the LGBTQ+ community, as seen by the recent abuse that Sunday Hinton faced in the DC jail. While that case won a victory in court, we need to be proactive to keep every member of our community safe.

* 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?

Absolutely. There needs to be an independent oversight body that provides an unbiased assessment and suggests methods of improvement.

* 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, I am the only candidate for at-large council who has not only publicly stated that we need to assess the MPD budget and not increase our police force as per the police reform commission report, but have openly said that we need to hold them accountable. MPD should be treated like any other agency when it comes to re-budgeting, and we should not be asking MPD to do the work of anti-poverty, violence prevention, crisis intervention, and reentry. I support funding for programs for community investment beyond MPD.

<https://www.gorefordc.com/december-20-press-release>

*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.*