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**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?

**ANSWER**: Yes, this question holds answers to how to resolve some affordable housing problems in a way I did not consider. This makes me think that we can subsidize vacant properties that qualify (up to code for living standards), to house individuals, that can then help the property value if coordinated properly to partner with owners and dc government, who are burdened by vacancies, and produced equity with increased value for all involved.

* 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?

**ANSWER:** Yes. We can expand access beyond what has been typical/legal for years. More young men, single fathers, jettisoned teens need access and other support to step into these housing voucher programs.

Thank you!! This is a concept I have not considered since beginning this campaign but a great reminder of an old policy that needs to change.

**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?

**ANSWER**: With any new industry we need quality control. That means we need to have laws, regulation, licensing, taxes, formation of business entities, health inspections, and likely a regulatory body or agency to manage this new industry.

My moral compass operates like this: we need to meet people where they are; old methods of government are broken, and we require new ideas and methods to address old problems. This would be one such example of how to govern and incorporate a once black-market industry to provide protection and quality control for the safety of all. This would eliminate policing from a certain harsh aspect, and instead hold the real wrongdoers accountable.

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

**ANSWER**: Each tipped worker feels differently about it. I would support whatever the majority supports on this subject, if it went to a vote.

* 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?

**ANSWER**: Yes. The obvious answer is to get cases examined and resolved as is the expectation of residents. We must create a culture of getting things done effectively, properly, and quickly. That means we may have to promote efficiency over assessing how busy people are to justify their FTE or budgets. We can find other projects for people to champion if they find themselves without work, and get them a meaningful task to complete on any given day in the office. This would be changing the work culture of government to make it more productive.

**Health**

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

**ANSWER**: NO. They already exist and they do not work. The thinking is backwards. What we must do is decriminalize drug usage, and the sell of certain drugs, and get merchants licensed, certified, taxed, regulated with a regulatory agency of the new industry. This way we are out front and preventing overdoses and keeping people safe from the War on Drugs policies that only send people to jail and the grave while not keeping people from violence and drugs that kill them.

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

**ANSWER**: Yes, with the perspective articulated above.

**Policing and incarceration**

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

**ANSWER**: The question is vague. However, yes I want our incarcerated population reduced because people are not doing crimes and we have decriminalized other crimes which should have retroactive implementation. But I do not support freeing people for the sake of reducing the incarcerated population, because a part of having people incarcerated is to keep others 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?

**ANSWER**: Yes. I think a simple “yes” should suffice. The issues identified in the articulation of the question present exactly what needs to be addressed—and I support that. We must be changing culture as leaders. I do not want to continue waking up in a world where the design features continue to exacerbate despair when practical solutions exist to extinguish these problems. How do I know this is possible? Just look around the rest of the world. The District and the United States are failing its citizens with its policies. We are all capable of the experience enjoyed in other countries so long as we are willing to elect the right leaders with the political will to achieve better results.

* 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?

**ANSWER**: I’m not a traditional “defund the police” thinker. We are in critical and crucial times where crime is spiking and the solution is not going to be a “pull the rug” policy for stopping crime, keeping people safe, and putting money into programs that would create long term benefits. We need to triage out. That means we need police to be active and present, but to do a better job of “protect and serve.” Right now, there is an attrition in police staffing because of the request for reform and sweeping of their budget, along with the recourse against policing. However, crime is not slowing down. Therefore, we need police presence, and different enforcement of laws. This is a heavy lift, but once we create the culture of what is legal and how police should be used in enforcing our new laws of legality and decriminalization of historic crimes, then we solve our problem on all fronts, and we use cops to stop a different type of crime in a different way.

What do I mean? Let’s reference my earlier answers.

1. Ending the war on drugs. Therefore, we are not having the excuse to brutalize dealers and users, but instead we are ensuring safe drugs, legal merchandizing, and proper compliance with all regulations.
2. Same is true of decriminalizing prostitution.

Crimes of despair such as shoplifting and petty robbery can be addressed with having to pay fines, or providing funding such that people are supported in a needs-based way financially that benefit retailers and the customer to prevent police-citizen altercations.

Statehood would make this much easier. However, we are going to have to work very hard to achieve these ends. But having a thoughtful and ardent leader to execute is of great importance.

Now, in the absence of being able to execute immediately, “Plan B” is about changing the culture of policing. Police will have a presence in our city, but we will disincentize ticketing and arrests for quotas, yet maintain bonuses for the reduction of crime. The less crime the bigger the bonus. We have police take ownership of their beats and their teams, starting in training. Let’s move the goalpost or redefine what successful policing looks like. “If your area is safe, then you get a bonus.” Figure it out!!! What does your community need to be safe. Then provide the resources and support.

I’m happy to expound and take on other thoughts to improve society and governing. But the problems we have are so certain, they are predictable. Therefore, we must innovate and radically change culture.