

**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?

**I support building more housing in Ward 3 and across the city. I will continue to push for more investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund while also ensuring that the trust fund meets its statutory requirements. Passing the HPTF Transparency Amendment Act, which better allocates funding for deeply affordable units, is one of my top housing priorities. DHCD’s consolidated request for proposals has additional funding sources in it and requires that at least 5% of units have permanent supportive housing. However HPTF is not the best way to achieve under 30% AMI housing, and we need to support construction of buildings utilizing other rental subsidy programs such as Low Income Housing Tax Credits and the Local Rent Supplement Program.**

* 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?

**I worked directly with the Ward 3 community to construct short-term family housing, and I talked with many District residents experiencing homelessess. I learned the needs of our most vulnerable residents, and I want the District to continue to invest in the Housing Production Trust Fund to ensure more of our residents have safe and stable housing as well as make sure Homeward DC 2.0 is a success.**

**As someone who worked on the Homeward DC plan in 2016 I have first hand knowledge of how critical it is that we do as much as we can to assist homelessness residents, particularly LGBTQ+ youth, find stable housing. LGBTQ+ youth are at a higher risk for homelessness than their peers. As the point person who worked with the community and the government to gather support and overcome opposition to the Ward 3 Short-Term Family Housing site, and when community members said it will never happen, I delivered on the Mayor’s pledge to put a homeless shelter in all eight wards and close DC General. As the next Ward 3 Councilmember, I would work with the coalition to reform program eligibility rules to put housing first, make sure it is equitable as a sustainable strategy and will make sure clients have options and recommendations that guide and inform them of their choices.**

**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?

**I support legislation that decriminalizes consensual sexual acts between consenting adults. As Councilmember I will ensure City resources are utilized to fight human trafficking, sexual assault, and to protect our children from harm.**

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

**According to DC law there is only a minimum wage. If restaurants or businesses aren’t following the law and ensuring tipped workers are making the DC minimum wage, then those restaurants or businesses should be fined per DC law and their employees should be compensated their rightful wages. I think Initiative 82 will hurt small businesses particularly businesses opening east of the river that are providing desperately needed services to Ward 7 and Ward 8 residents.**

**However if Initiative 82 passes I will not repeal it as Ward 3 Councilmember becauseI support 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?

**As the next Ward 3 Councilmember, I support funding the Office of Human Rights to its appropriate level for the agency to clear its case backlog and complete discrimination cases in a timely manner. I would also like the Office of Human Rights to hire more attorneys and improve their engagement with the public as well as with other government agencies. I would also like the current interim director to be confirmed by the Council as soon as possible so the agency can move forward and have stable and permanent leadership.**

**Health**

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

**As the next Ward 3 Councilmember, I will support establishing overdose and drug prevention facilities across the District. These facilities should be equitable and DC Health should provide incentives to non-profits and community based organizations to open overdose prevention facilities in the areas in the District of Columbia hardest hit by drug overdoses.**

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

**I support removing criminal penalties for drug possession. Every resident deserves the opportunity to live a full life without being subject to the criminal justice system. There are thousands of arrests for drug use and possession in D.C. and Black and Brown people and individuals experiencing poverty are disproportionately impacted by these arrests. These arrests negatively affect prospects for jobs, housing, and government assistance. As Ward 3 Councilmember, I will support legislation decriminalizing the possession of personal use of drugs, expungement and resentencing of past drug possession arrests and convictions and fund 24-hour harm reduction centers.**

**Policing and incarceration**

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

**I support working with the D.C. Courts, the Attorney General and the Mayor’s Office to reduce the total incarcerated population. We have learned during the pandemic that certain individuals who have been incarcerated are not a threat to society and should return home. As Ward 3 Councilmember, I support the READY Center in the DC Jail and the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs to help our returning citizens better transition into society. I also support Bill 24-0338, the “The Redefinition of a Child Amendment Act” and Bill 24-0306, the “Youth Rights Amendment Act of 2021” to end the school to prison pipeline.**

* 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?

**I support better oversight, transparency, and better conditions at the DC Jail. I am glad to see $251 million in the FY23 budget to build a new annex to the District's Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) that will provide a new, modernized facility. The annex is a major step forward to eventually closing the aging Central Detention Facility (CDF) and moving all incarcerated individuals to the CTF. I am also glad to see an additional $25 million in the Capital Improvement Plan to maintain safe, secure, and humane conditions for inmates at the CDF until the new CTF annex can be completed. I do believe the Council needs to provide better oversight of the Department of Corrections, in which there should be more transparency and they should be held accountable. I don’t believe in an independent oversight committee but once on the Council I will hold the Department of Corrections and the Mayor’s Office accountable for their actions especially issues addressing transgender individuals.**

* 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?

**As Ward 3 Councilmember I will take a holistic approach to public safety. Policing needs to change by hiring more police who were born here, raised here and live in the community in which they serve. We also need to invest more in successful strategies to prevent crime like mental health supports, violence interrupters, credible messengers, roving leaders, and neighborhood watch programs. I am in favor of increasing our police force to have more of a police presence and to improve the response time to 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.*