**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, I do. We live in a city that has significant resources and we should be investing in people who need it the most. I also believe that we should be investing across the income spectrum to maintain our economic base and vibrancy. We need more workforce housing for our teachers, firefighters, nurses, and other frontline workers who work hard but cannot afford to live here comfortably. As part of my campaign, I have advocated for the city to use the nearly 18,000 vacant units to provide more housing and relieve pressures from the high demand, which is contributing to the high cost.*

* 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. In fact, when I worked at the Council, I was a committee staffer for the Committee on Facilities & Procurement that allocated funding for vouchers specifically for LGBTQ+ people. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are hit particularly hard by homelessness; especially young people and we need to ensure that we’re making the right investments and don’t have regulations that prevent people from being housed.*

**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 will seriously consider the best way we can protect our sex workers from discrimination, harassment, and financial hardship. While the Council held a robust public hearing on the matter, this needs further discussion and analysis.*

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

*Yes. People should have fair wages, and I look forward to voting in favor of the initiative on the November ballot. I will also not vote to overturn the initiative should the matter come before the Council.*

* 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 has a long history of being underfunded, which prevents the agency from fulfilling its mission of enforcing laws that stop discrimination. As Councilmember, I will fight for the necessary level of funding. When I was a policy staffer at the Council, I dealt with a similar issue with the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs. The agency was serving a large population but didn’t have sufficient staff or resources. So, every year, we increased the agency’s general budget and number of FTEs to help it operate more effectively. I’ll use the same approach for OHR.*

**Health**

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

*Yes. I know people personally and have had family members deal with drug issues and we need critical investments to make sure people experiencing issues with drugs have the support they need. It’s an issue that doesn’t get the attention it deserves.*

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

*Absolutely. People of color are hit hardest by these policies. Instead of overly incarcerating people we need to invest in treatment services.*

**Policing and incarceration**

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

*When I worked at the Council, my policy portfolio included returning citizen issues. The pandemic has shown us that we are capable of releasing people from FBOP facilities and the DC Jail while placing some individuals on special supervision or totally releasing them based on certain infractions. So, there’s no reason why we shouldn’t continue this practice with a balanced approach. Incarceration devastates families mentally, socially, and economically. It does more harm than rehabilitate, and ultimately, the community pays the price.*

* 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. This was an issue I worked on when I was a staffer at the Council. The conditions and treatment of our incarcerated residents at the DC Jail is horrific, which was highlighted by the pandemic. I worked with the Administration to improve operations at the facility. Fortunately, the court intervened and mandated changes, but the Council and Administration need to proactively address these issues.*

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 support reallocating funds to support and strengthen other programs that reduces potential harm to individuals while also allowing for a new approach to community policing and providing additional services to residents.*

*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.*