



*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. When responding to our questionnaire, please include specific examples of how your previous record demonstrates your commitment to the issues raised in the questionnaire. 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 addressing affordable housing in a holistic way that will provide sufficient affordable housing for those under 30% AMI, as well as workforce housing. I believe that's a combination of increasing supply overall through zoning and other policy changes, focused oversight to ensure the HPTF is focused enough on the under 30%, analyzing the most cost effective way to generate the most affordable units (including increasing investment in preservation rather than just production), using levers like reducing parking minimums or density bonuses to increase affordability numbers, and in some cases strengthening IZ laws (mostly in public and quasi-public spaces) though I don't think IZ is the best lever to yield significant increases in affordable units. Overall, I am a proponent of enhanced building and enhanced preservation, and not just focusing on renters but also pathways to ownership that include greater investment in land trusts and limited equity co-ops. The best way to create racial and economic equity, and ensure continued economic diversity in our community, is to increase access to home (and other forms of) ownership. In terms of my personal record, I opened my own home to men coming home from prison as a way to provide supportive low rent housing for unhoused individuals under 30% AMI. Some of these former housemates now own their own homes, and I have given my personal guarantee for others to get into housing when their credit or income wouldn't allow them access.**
- 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? **Before we increase the number available, I advocate for actually fixing the system we have to ensure that people with**

vouchers are able to find housing efficiently and effectively, and receive the ongoing support they need. We must coordinate across agencies (and non-profit partners) to streamline the process of matching those with vouchers with housing, and then getting them into housing quickly and effectively, and providing the long-term support they need. My major focus would be on these operational improvements to ensure individuals and families with vouchers are able to find a stable, supportive home, and reform the program eligibility to ensure those who need this level of support get it. In terms of my personal record, I lead a social responsibility program which includes philanthropy and employee volunteerism, and we have partnered with organizations like Miriam's Kitchen, Pathways to Housing, Community of Hope, Keys for the Homeless, and other amazing organizations doing powerful work to help individuals have access to a permanent, supportive living space. I am also on the impact investment committee at my organization, where we have invested over \$500M in affordable housing.

### **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 decriminalizing sex work for the individual engaged in the commercial sex, and full erasure of records for prostitution, but I do not support the broader decriminalization of other parties or full legalization. Full decriminalization or legalization makes it impossible to prosecute traffickers and pimps, and is shown to create an easier to operate black market for trafficking under fully legalized structures, which I do not support.
- Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers? I support the will of the people, so since this is a ballot issue I will support the election result and will fight to ensure that whichever way the vote is decided this November stands.
- 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, absolutely. My approach to governing, and my goal as a legislator, is to ensure every policy starts with a framework acknowledging the dignity and divinity of an individual. Therefore, this would be a major focus for me.

### **Health**

- Do you support establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District to reduce deaths from drug overdoses? No
- Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services? I support increasing investments in health services, specifically preventative and mental health services. I have visited HIPS, worked with community health clinics across the city, and met with a number of health experts to build knowledge around the best approaches to preventative and holistic health care and support.

### **Policing and incarceration**

- Do you support reducing D.C.'s total pre-COVID-19 incarcerated population by one-third to one-half by FY30? Our goal as a city should be that no citizen is incarcerated because there is no need to separate someone from society. As we continue to advance

anti-poverty public health solutions, and, most importantly, an equity focused culture of love and support that believes in our interconnected and shared liberation then we will take steps toward that goal. I do believe though that if someone is a danger to others they should be removed from society. However, when removed, we should work to support an effective reentry, and to keep that person safe while in prison (especially those at most risk in prison, such as the LGBT population, and especially even within that group transgender individuals). As part of these steps, I would also advocate that DC take over parole responsibilities for its residents. In terms of my personal efforts, as mentioned previously I opened my home to individuals coming home from incarceration and helped a number of returning citizens launch businesses. I also co-founded a non-profit with returning citizens, which is now fully led and staffed by returning citizens, that supports effective reentry.

- 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 yes. As someone who opened his home to individuals coming out of prison for about a decade and together built intentional community, and founded a non-profit with returning citizens fully run and operated by returning citizens, this is an issue I care deeply about and consider it one of our major human rights violations. We must focus on effective reentry, safe and therapeutic detention (especially for transgender individuals and others at greater risk of violence), and curate a staff culture focused in this manner. This includes supporting staff at the jail to have the proper staffing levels and training to be able to curate this type of environment, and holding our government accountable for the safety and security of individuals housed in the jail.
- 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? I don't think this is an "or" question but rather an "and" question. I believe we should center our public safety discussion around what keeps us safe. What keeps us safe are anti-poverty, violence prevention, crisis intervention and reentry programs. What also keeps us safe are police if all of the things above have not been put in place effectively and/or failed. Currently police are asked to do too much. Police should respond in situations where a weapon is needed. Social workers should respond in behavioral health crises. Medical professionals should respond in substance use crises. Long term programs should be put in place, such as funding the birth to three act, investing in high impact tutoring for any child not reading on grade level in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and apprenticeship and vocational training as well as greater out of school time investment for teens. These are all examples of policies I advocate for to support equitable outcomes long-term.

I've also invested in anti-poverty racial and economic equity building work personally and my record reflects that. As mentioned earlier, I opened my home to men coming home from prison and built intentional community together and helped a number of returning citizens, men and women, to launch their own businesses that now hire ~40 DC residents, most of whom are returning citizens themselves. Some of these business owners and employees have bought their own homes in DC and many are building generational wealth for their families. I'm also on the board of 1863 Ventures, a non-

profit accelerator and venture firm for Black-owned businesses. I've also been a mentor, CASA for foster youth, and have been on the board of a number of youth serving organizations.

*Please return your questionnaire responses in Word format **by 11:59pm ET on Tuesday, September 20** [here](#). If you have trouble submitting your response through the form, you can email it to [equal@glaa.org](mailto:equal@glaa.org).*