



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. 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?

Yes. Everyone should be able to afford a safe, clean, and dignified home. As the next At-Large Councilmember, I will take steps to reverse the decades of racism, discrimination, and reinforcement of unearned privilege that has led to the segregation of low-income residents (who are disproportionately Black and brown) and concentrated poverty in substandard housing. The notion that only certain buildings are subjected to price controls encourages underinvestment in the maintenance of those buildings as they age. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development considers a family cost-burdened if they are spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Therefore, housing affordability should be measured by the available assets and income of a family, not an arbitrary rate of growth or projected profit margin. Rent control, where it exists, should be based on the tenant, not the unit. This method would protect low-wage earners and truly desegregate communities.

Vacant and bank-owned homes present a massive opportunity to create accessible housing for our neediest residents. These units are numerous but cannot meet our full need for additional housing. They will provide a rapid infusion of units that can be rehabilitated or renovated more quickly than new construction and can be done to create a massive infusion of new units in enough volume to affect the overall housing supply. As a next step we should be exploring the viability of alternative decommoditized housing models such as social housing and community land trusts in addition to the existing housing market would create housing a stock that avoids displacement.

- 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?

Yes. I would expand supply and access. I would also simplify operations and increase the transparency of the voucher and Inclusionary Zoning programs. The District's programs are not particularly transparent or understandable to the average resident. The government should aggressively partner with entities customer-facing entities to provide early education on housing access programs and financial literacy.

Transparency would also cure much of the skepticism that residents have regarding these programs. For example, listening to voters, there is a resounding consensus amongst residents that programs like Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) only work for the politically well-connected. I know the dedicated public servants who run these programs, their challenge is being under-resourced. They could also benefit from more reliable grant partners and an upgrade in the IT system used to administer IZ. I would further reform the IZ lottery program to make a resident's placement and place on the IZ list more transparently known to low- to moderate-income residents. Your likelihood of quality housing shouldn't feel like random chance.

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?

Potentially. Criminalization of sex work encourages the practitioners to work in the shadows and increases the likelihood of exploitation and coercive violence, particularly for Black, brown, and trans-women. However, decriminalization is not a complete solution. The District must also provide real and meaningful solutions to eliminate the underlying bigotry and discrimination that situationally coerces a disproportionate number of Black, brown, and trans-women into sex work as they perceive it to be their only option to support themselves.

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

Yes. but I have been told by several tipped wage earners that they are concerned that they are going to see a net decrease in their wages as prices go up and customers stop tipping. Public discourse would benefit from more information from Initiative 82 supporters on how they plan to encourage customers to continue to tip and allay the concerns of tipped workers.

- 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. As the next At-Large Councilmember, I will fight to ensure that OHR is properly resourced, staffed, and authorized to protect the rights of our residents and employees. I am the only candidate that has implemented equitable access programs and served as the OHR point of contact for a District agency. As the Legislative Director and Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Department of Energy and Environment and the Language Access Coordinator for the Office of Administrative Hearings, I worked to protect the rights of our residents. As a practicing attorney, I have represented employees and agencies before the Office of Human Rights. I am

uniquely familiar with the covered areas of law, the relevant protected classes, and the resource needs of the Office. I look forward to bringing that expertise to the Council.

Health

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

Potentially. When properly resourced and structured, overdose prevention facilities have worked in other countries to provide an effective way to connect people with addiction and recovery services, but the quality and competence of the services associated with these locations are a deciding factor. I have serious doubts about the competency of our current government to successfully operate overdose prevention facilities that do more than enable continued addiction.

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

Yes. As the next At-Large Councilmember, I would advocate for inclusion of as many returning citizens as possible into the now-legal decriminalized drug market.

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. I support moving towards total elimination of the District's incarcerated population. As the next At-Large Councilmember, I will advocate for the creation of real and meaningful rehabilitative programs, particularly for youthful offenders.

- 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?

Yes. These recommendations were included in the Police Reform Commission, which I support.

- 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. These recommendations were included in the Police Reform Commission, which I support.

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.