



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. I do support providing more sufficiently affordable housing units primarily because the District is currently failing too many low-income families, many of whom are veterans, working class individuals with low paying wages, mental health challenged families, returning citizens, and individuals who have either not been properly diagnosed, or are not receiving comprehensive mental health care and resources. As someone who has helped to house our homeless populations, it is imperative that they are included in the District's economic growth and affordable housing intentions because all of DC's residents & citizens deserve access to proper care, resources, housing securities & stability. Approximately 3,400 families on any given night in the District are homeless according to news sources, thus the District's current economic growth are proving to not impact all DC residents, which is why I have chosen to enter the Mayor's race, four more years of the same will prove too detrimental for far too many DC residents and citizens. We must use our developmental and private sector relationships more abundantly in the interest of eradicating homelessness in the District.

- 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 support improving access to housing voucher programs for all applicable residents. I also support an audit of our current housing waitlist and voucher selection programs to determine the accuracy of the reporting, and to determine the appropriate level of resources needed for each of our residents. I am interested in helping our housing voucher citizens to gain housing security

across all eight Wards of the District. I am very interested in reforming the housing programs of the District to include reviewing program eligibility rules.

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 do not currently support decriminalizing sex work for adults here in the District primarily because statistically the District has demonstrated a high reporting of HIV diagnosed individuals, drug overdosing, acts of pedophilia and sexual crimes against minors, untreated mentally, challenged citizens, and homelessness, all of which I professionally believe would be dangerous gateways for criminally encouraged activity related to the selling & purchasing of sex. We are a city in which far too many of our citizens have demonstrated reckless behaviors that involve “self-medicating”, unsafe sexual promiscuity, coupled with DC’s documented “economic” divide, I believe that we could unintentionally, harmfully expose far too many Washingtonians to insurmountable odds, while navigating their daily decisions for basic survival. Our current administration has trouble with enforcing the existing laws, and thus we are a city in much need of reform in far too many areas. It is my belief that decriminalizing sex work for adults given our current climate of mismanaged citizen and community affairs would exacerbate our existing public health and public safety realities.

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

I do not support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers because I currently feel that the District’s overall minimum wage is not enough. District residents should be able to earn wages that will allow them to realize home ownership, higher educational opportunities, develop economic freedom, and imagine other sustainable living and family realities. Many workers have to work multiple jobs just to sustain a standard, basic mode of living, which in many instances impact their overall health and wellness. While attending college I once worked as a waitress and the instability of the general public tipping appropriately, motivated me to seek other employment opportunities. Many of our tipped workers, work in the hospitality industry where the hours are long, the customer is always right, and your pay is never quite enough. We must be a District that is appropriately accountable to our service industry as well as all industries.

- 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, I do support funding for the Office of Human Rights on a higher level. As a mental health advocate for the past 5 years across the District, I have witnessed firsthand the egregious living conditions that many District residents are exposed to without proper city enforcements regarding landlord-tenant housing laws. Many of these circumstances are inhumane and have occurred with the full knowledge of District elected officials and applicable agencies. Furthermore, many seniors and low-income families live with violations that are detrimental to their health, with no proper oversights or accountabilities in a city that bares the United Nations seal. Additionally many of our “protected class” citizens are discriminated upon without

recourse. Funding this agency on a more appropriate level would help in my professional opinion to educate the general public, enforce the law, & eliminate local governmental inaction.

Health

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

As the daughter of drug addiction, I support all levels of prevention to reduce the death of our citizens. My dear father was a military soldier and struggled with PTSD. The formal diagnosis was understood years after his death, which is the case for far too many veterans and protectors of our freedom. I recall the numerous occasions as a youth, when witnessing my father's overdosing realities, as his only child, wondering if and when he might die from his drug usage. I experienced a 16-year hiatus before losing my father to a heroin overdose. One of the memories that I recall is the emergency room doctor's accounting of the marks on my father's arm appearing to be no older than six months. Additionally, the medications found at my father's home at the time of his death indicated that he was trying to "wean" himself off from his addiction. Drug usage and addiction is such an undignified reality for so many of our citizens. All efforts to reduce death from drug overdosing by District citizens should responsibly, sensibly, and genuinely be explored, to include overdose prevention facilities, forward thinking medical, and drug addiction professionals.

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

I do support removing the criminal penalties and increasing investing in health services in the District. My work as a mental health advocate across the District has constantly revealed the correlation of social determinants to one's health and well-being outcomes. Much of the research done by SAMHSA, NAMI, and other reputable mental health focused organizations in and around the District have detailed that at least 100,000 or more District residents report feeling and being depressed in any one year to another. The District's statistical reporting has also revealed that many of its residents are self-medicating and using life altering drugs to cope with matters of mental health and depression. The existing health inequities in the Nation's Capital for Black & Brown families and individuals are too relevant not to examine the need for increased health services investment and decreased criminally focused penalties for personal use and possession. The District has legalized marijuana, struggles to properly house and support returning citizens, and has not traditionally provided the appropriate community-level resourcing for citizens addicted to drugs and alcohol, thus it is time to reform the systemic approaches and stigma surrounding drug usage, and possession to include comprehensive health service investments.

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 the reduction in DC's incarcerated population to one-half by FY30 primarily because I believe that the District has an abundance of community based and religious based organizations, in addition to agencies on the private sector that if properly incentivized, could be useful in helping DC to reform its' incarcerated citizen population. Many incarcerated

individuals are viably able to contribute to society while also learning how to be an accountable, and trustworthy citizen with responsibilities, as a result of an increased base of knowledge and opportunities for personal growth. Many incarcerated individuals in DC, especially non-violent perpetrators are willing and able to help curb DC's existing youth criminal and violent behaviors and choices by implementing "lived" experience and mentoring services as deterrents in the District's ongoing struggle with gun violence and matters involving the public's safety. The practice of locking our citizens up as opposed to seeking out opportunities to reform, and redirect them whenever possible, has to end.

- 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, I do. We currently have an opportunity in the District to humanely house the incarcerated population in a manner that encourages better health, living, and social outcomes. The District has a great mix of cultural, academic, medical, advocate, and professional mindsets with a vested interest in seeing the District fare better when it involves properly acknowledging, housing, learning, and caring for all District residents and incarcerated individuals. There has to be accountable and transparent oversights, as well as an independent body of community, "reformed" citizens, and applicable professionals to ensure that the entire problems within our current DC jail are appropriately, and intentionally, "removed", and improved for all persons incarcerated here in DC.

- 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 agree with divesting from the MPD; however, I do professionally believe that DC needs to focus on police reform that will include raising the standards of our currently accepted MPD practices to include higher performance standards regarding violence and crisis prevention, proper community response and handling of mental health related calls. Transparency in reporting crime statistics and occurrences, as well as maintaining highest and best practices and standards when engaging members of the public, fellow officers, and possible perpetrators of crime. I also believe that investing in vital programs, to include anti-poverty, and reentry services are also a must. I don't professionally believe that we should be reducing our police resources, nor should we reduce much needed programs for DC citizens. The health and well-being of all DC citizens depends on responsible, common-sense leadership and governing. Divesting in MPD would be very irresponsible which in my opinion is why there is such a divide between law enforcement and the DC community. Our children, seniors, and families need to be reassured that persons who have been sworn to protect them, and to uphold the law will remain honest in their dealings with the public, not be disgruntled because they have been made to feel inadequate, overpaid, or the subject of political rhetoric. DC residents should not have to question the intentions of their police department. Communities and citizens should feel safe with the presence of the MPD, not suspicious, distrusting, or disgusted. I support investing in programs, initiatives, and engagements that support community and MPD working together to address vital community needs, concerns, prevention, and intervention practices in order that our children and youth benefit from, and model healthy behaviors and outcomes as a result.

*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.*