

**David Schwartzman, Candidate for DC Council At-Large,**

**DC Statehood Green Party**

**<https://dcstatehoodgreen.party/candidates/David-Schwartzman>**

### **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. As a member of the Fair Budget Coalition (FBC), representing the DC Statehood Green and as a member of Empower DC I have supported this demand, endorsing the FBC's budget recommendations in my testimony to the DC Council COW given in the last few years. Nevertheless, the HPTF is grounded in the creation of market rate housing which remains unaffordable for a majority of DC residents. Pass B24-0802 - Green New Deal for Housing Amendment Act of 2022 to create social housing and establish a DC Public Bank in partnership. The provision of affordable housing should be decommodified, i.e., housing as a human right. Hence, the HPTF should be phased out with its taxpayers' funding used to promote social housing along with the stronger implementation of DOPA and TOPA. Community land trusts should also be expanded to provide permanent affordability. Home ownership for our Black residents will be enhanced by this agenda, along with more generous subsidies for first-time

buyers. For example, social housing with rents held at no more than 30% of household income will free up savings for homeownership. Documentation: Here is an estimate of how far we are in DC from real affordability as HUD so defines as no more than 30% of household income going to housing: without assistance from the DC government, the bottom 60% of families in terms of income would pay at the very least 50% of their income for housing as renters for market housing, based on the latest rent data (excluding elderly, data from ITEP, Who Pays?, 2020). Average market rates are: One bedroom: \$2,464/month; Two bedroom: \$3,465/month (Source: <https://www.rent.com/district-of-columbia/washington-apartments/rent-trends>). For 2016- 2020, data shows that 46% of renters were paying more than 30% of their household income for rent (<https://www.dchealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=393&localeId=130951>), with low-income renters being the most highly burdened. The HPTF, the main program creating affordability has failed miserably, trickle-down economics!

- 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, see previous answer.

## **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?

Yes, I support the decriminalization of sex work, and an end to police harassment. The people whose circumstances force them into sex work must be supported in finding alternative, safer ways to make a living. I support expanded and improved job training, apprenticeship and economic development programs. I would support targeted job training programs that would enable people to move from sex work into other kinds of employment.

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

Yes, my campaign platform and signs in 2018 and now include this demand: “Support for Initiative 82 on the November 8, 2022 ballot. This initiative seeks to eliminate the sub-minimum tipped wage and ensure all tipped workers receive DC’s full minimum wage plus tips on top.” (<https://dcstatehoodgreen.party/candidates/David-Schwartzman/davids-platform>). I testified to the DC Council to “repeal the repeal” of Initiative 77.

- 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. This support is also expressed in other candidate questionnaires. The enforcement of human rights in our community should be informed in the near future by the only Constitution for Statehood generated by an elected, delegated Constitutional Convention, passed by voters in 1982. This Constitution included in its Bill of Rights: “Provisions for freedom from discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, citizenship, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, poverty, or parentage, and disabilities (Section 3), right to employment or for those unable to work an income sufficient to meet basic human needs (Section 20) and equal pay for equal and comparable work (Section 21).”

(see my youtube presentation, “The Struggle for DC Statehood”, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp\\_W4heeNaw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp_W4heeNaw), which is also posted in my Blog on my campaign page).

As a result of our demand to require a real Constitutional Convention upon achieving statehood, the DC Council amended its minimalist Constitution drafted by its five member Statehood Commission and this amended Constitution requiring a real Convention no more than two years after achieving Statehood was passed in the 2016 Advisory Referendum and is in the Congressional Bills. Preparing for this process will insure that human rights will be explicitly mentioned in the Constitution once we achieve self-determination with DC Statehood.

## **Health**

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

Yes. My younger son Sam Junge and his wife are leaders in harm reduction in Portland Oregon and have informed me of the importance of this initiative.

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

Yes. “End the drug war” is a position I have long championed in my testimony to the DC Council and by the DC Statehood Green Party.

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

Yes.

- 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.

- 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. From my campaign website: “Reform the police, promote grassroots programs to curb violent behavior

Transfer the bloated police budget to fund programs that sharply reduce poverty

Terminate DC police collaboration with Israeli military/police forces”

(<https://dcstatehoodgreen.party/candidates/David-Schwartzman/davids-platform>). In the candidates forum on Public Safety And Policing (September 7, 2022) and the forum sponsored by DC for Democracy (September 14, 2022\*) I spoke to my support for the solutions proposed by Defund MPD and Refund Our Communities. Violence prevention must be treated as a public health challenge.

\* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swr\\_N2O5koM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swr_N2O5koM)

*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).*

