



A Loving Community

2024 GLAA Questionnaire

The following questions are based on [A Loving Community: GLAA Policy Brief 2024](#). If you have questions about the issues raised in the questionnaire, please seek the brief for guidance and clarification.

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—particularly actions that relate to the topics in recent GLAA policy briefs. Feel free to link relevant documents such as letters to the editor, legislative testimony, campaign literature, etc. Assume that GLAA is unfamiliar with your record.

- 1. Fund Our Futures.** Do you support addressing concentrated wealth in the District by raising revenue through taxing the most wealthy residents as the Just Recovery DC Coalition recommends in its Fair Tax proposal?

Yes, I believe it is incredibly important to wisely invest DC taxpayer dollars into social programs that support the care and well-being of District residents, especially those in Ward 7 who live East of the River. I am strongly opposed to the Mayor's plan to use public funds for a new football stadium at RFK because I believe it is a poor use of potentially a half Billion dollars of DC taxpayer money that will not spur the kind of long term sustainable development or housing opportunities that Ward 7 and our city needs. We should not be giving money that should be going towards our schools to support our students and teachers to Billionaires who have more than enough money to privately fund their own sports stadiums.

- 2. Invest in harm reduction and overdose prevention services to save lives.** Do you support funding the evidence-based and patient-centered approach to reducing overdose deaths and supporting healing from substance use disorder in the form of

allocating \$15 million from the \$80 million Opioid Settlement Fund to fund two 24/7 harm reduction centers, that would include a safe drug consumption component, mobile outreach vehicles, and drug checking services?

Yes, I support allocating \$15 million from the Opioid Settlement Fund to fund two 24/7 harm reduction centers and would like to see more mental health resources and substance abuse resources focused in areas with high overdose death rates. We should be modernizing our approach to Drug Free Zones by directing more drug addiction resources in these hot spots so that we are not just shifting people from one block to the next and addressing the root cause of the problem.

3. **Increasing the pipeline of licensed mental health care workers.** Do you support addressing the District's lack of mental health providers by reducing the barriers to becoming a licensed social worker through ending the exam requirement for people who complete a Bachelor's or Master's degree in social work and funding programs such as the recently passed law creating a free Master of Social Work program?

Yes, I have seen first hand the damaging consequences that not having enough social workers is wrecking on our city. I fully support Councilman Robert White's efforts to create a free pathway for students who wish to major in Social Work at UDC and amending our licensing laws so that we are not unnecessarily blocking candidates who would otherwise make great social workers. I also support increasing the portability of out of state licenses to provide an immediate increase in the number of social workers who can fill vacancies in our city.

4. **Fund crisis response and community-based behavioral/mental health services to prevent crises.** Do you support investing in unarmed models of crisis response with responders that are culturally competent and resourced sufficiently to respond in minutes?

Yes, I support funding and developing an unarmed, culturally competent crisis response team as part of our public health and safety strategy. I support providing training to all MPD officers in de-escalation tactics when they respond to people experiencing a mental health episode as well as Violence Interruption programs to address neighborhood conflicts. Our Department of Behavioral Health should be fully funded with a qualified staff that can support those experiencing a mental health crisis.

5. **Budget sufficiently to fulfill non-discrimination laws.** Do you support continued funding for the Office of Human Rights (and oppose cuts to the agency's budget) to ensure the agency can staff up sufficiently to end its case backlog, complete discrimination cases in a timely manner, and effectively engage in community education and outreach?

Yes, I support robust funding for the Office of Human Rights to ensure it has the necessary resources and staff to fulfill its mandate. I oppose any cuts to the budget of the Office of Human Rights and will advocate for increased investment in this agency to enhance its capabilities in enforcement, education, and outreach.

6. **Decriminalize Sex Work.** Do you support enacting legislation to decriminalize sex work for adults, including the selling and purchasing of sex and third party involvement not involving fraud, violence or coercion?

Given our recent spike in violent crime, decriminalizing sex work may have unintended consequences that our city is unprepared to meet. As a survivor of teenage domestic abuse, protecting minors from human trafficking schemes is my top priority. DC's age of consent is currently 16 which is too low and would need to be raised to 18 before I considered decriminalizing sex work. I would however support the formation of a taskforce to examine our laws around sex work, and meet with sex workers to hear their stories and get a better understanding of their safety needs.

7. **Decriminalize Drug Use.** Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services? As a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia and someone deeply rooted in the principles of holistic health as an herbalist and health and fitness professional, I understand the complex issues surrounding the use of natural substances, including those currently classified as illegal drugs. I believe natural remedies, including cannabis, should be accessible for their medicinal benefits; it is for this reason I support decriminalizing the possession of such substances for personal use.

We must make sure that the use of these substances is safe, responsible, and does

not harm our community. For this reason, I will advocate for regulations that prevent the use of these substances in public spaces, during work hours, and when operating heavy machinery. Additionally, businesses selling these substances should not be located near schools. I will push for legislation that redirects resources toward comprehensive health services that focus on treatment. We must invest in health education, treatment facilities, and support systems that can handle drug abuse as a health issue rather than a criminal one.

- 8. Fully implement police and jail oversight and record sealing legislation.** Do you support the full \$2.6 million in funding necessary to implement the legislation passed to improve oversight of our jails and police and to overhaul our criminal record sealing process?

As someone who consistently fights for openness and strict oversight of all D.C. agencies, I strongly support the full implementation of recent laws aimed at improving oversight of our jails, especially DYRS. With the passage of this law, we can show the public that our judicial system treats all citizens of Ward 7 and the surrounding D.C. area fairly and with integrity.

The proposed \$2.6 million budget represents an investment in our community's future, justice, and the trust between our law enforcement and the people we serve. Fully funding this legislation will enable us to enhance our criminal record-sealing process, demonstrating its fairness and accessibility. Making sure our judicial system is fair, just, and open is something we owe to the people who live here.

- 9. Socialize Our Housing.** Do you support the D.C. Green New Deal for Housing that proposes to take a social housing approach to disrupt the failed system of the market-focused one?

Yes, I support the D.C. Green New Deal for Housing. By transitioning from a purely market-driven housing model to one that incorporates social housing principles, we can better meet the diverse needs of our population without sacrificing quality or affordability.

Social housing offers a promising path for all community members, regardless of income level, to have access to housing that is not only affordable but also aligns with modern standards for safety and environmental sustainability. This also allows us to build housing that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), giving accessibility to all.

We can look towards Montgomery County, Maryland for best practices in implementing a social housing model that will work for DC.

Please return your questionnaire responses in PDF format by 11:59pm ET on Friday, April 19 on GLAA's [homepage](#). If you have trouble submitting your response through the page, you can email it to equal@glaa.org.