



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. There are a number of incentives in the District's tax policy that favor those with discretionary income and residual wealth. There is something to the idea of defining a Just and Fair Tax based on the demographics who are in most need of public investment dollars to create safe sustainable communities while maintaining opportunities for self-expression and freedom.

- 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 Harm reduction is the most humane method of assisting those who want to release their addictive behaviors and return to a more healthy life. The responsibility of the individual to those who provide harm reduction services and overdose prevention opportunities should be part of the services to help the individual manage their sobriety. Funding harm reduction centers while not imposing steps and standards for access to the services requires balancing the the needs to the number of persons addicted that want help to modify their behavior towards sobriety.

- 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

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 *Educating those who want to help on the appropriate channels and methods to help is key*

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 ABSOLUTELY. Culturally competent mental health services that not only understand, but also integrate into the treatment plans is important. Families must be prt of the holistic approach to developing boundaries on domestic violence against others in the household as well as against oneself.*

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. Pursuing and clarifying the process and possible methods for reducing costs for defending rights of people who have been harassed is more than appropriate.*

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? *YES. There are countries where sex work is decriminalized. By having a policy that protects sex workers, the ir health, and their control over the benefits of their trade, will improve the health and welfare of those workers as well as their clients. Models in European countries where sex work is not illegal can be studied for their best application in the District.*

7. **Decriminalize Drug Use.** Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services? *YES. Determining the appropriate definition of personal use, and perhaps increasing penalties for sharing illegal drugs, may indeed lead to a better use of police activity to make our communities safer and remove violent crime.*

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.

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?

YES. Criminal records which are often the result of prosecutorial discretion to make headlines, often leads to prosecution impacting those who must rely on the overburdend criminal justice public defender services. Revisiting the policing of all sections of Washington DC, may lead to better outcomes when access to mental health care isa reality, harm reduction, and treating drug offenses as a public health problem actually becomes part of the plicy conversation when dollars are involved, in a hollistic way.

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 building communities for people to age in place in supportive*