

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. As a lifelong resident of Ward 7 and a DC native, I've watched how this city has become even further stratified based on wealth. The compounding injustices leave communities like mine to fend for ourselves, while the wealthiest and most powerful in our city continue to hoard resources and political power. This is unsustainable.

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. Substance abuse is often tied to systemic inequities in our economic, social, and justice systems. We must tackle this issue head-on to mitigate the harm and help those struggling with substance abuse to reach full and permanent recovery.

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. Having a degree from an institute of higher education does not automatically equal ability. Though I am a major proponent of education and encourage everyone to pursue higher education if they wish, a lack of degree should not be a barrier to entry for many positions, including this one. That said, we cannot compromise the quality of care expected from these professionals. Everyone should be qualified and have the requisite training required to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of these crucial positions, with or without a university or grad-level degree.

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 am a vocal proponent of violence interruptors and increased community engagement with unarmed responders throughout DC. Not every 911 call should be answered by armed officers, and we must do what we can to protect DC residents and all responders from undue harm.

5. Budget sufficiently to fulfill non-discrimination laws. Do you support a 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. In my work as an attorney, law clerk for Judge Simmons of the DC Human Rights Commission, and as a community engagement specialist in AG Racine's office, I saw in practice how important it is that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We must maintain and expand efforts to support human rights in our city however we can.

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?

- When I was working in the Sexual Solicitation Diversion Court with Judge Kay Christian of the DC Superior Court, I heard firsthand from sex workers about their lived experiences and, because of those experiences, I am aware of the harms that come with criminalizing sex work carte blanche. I am also in strong support of Ms. Earlene Budd and the work she has done with the HIPS Program so, while I cannot answer definitively at this moment, I'm always open to learning more about how this would be regulated and what enforcement would look like in practice.

7. Decriminalize Drug Use. Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug

possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?

- Yes. For those who do struggle with substance abuse, we must prioritize funding to support their road to recovery rather than throwing people in jail. We have enduring and serious issues with violent crime in our city, and the primary focus of our criminal justice system should be on combating that. In addition to my response to question 2, we must also take into account that not all drug use automatically qualifies as disordered.

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. I spearheaded [record-sealing and expungement clinics](#) throughout my time in law school at Catholic University and have continued that work in my professional career and in a volunteer capacity.

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. Social housing is an important next step in our work to combat homelessness in the District and, while I do support market-priced housing in certain circumstances, we must prioritize housing that helps DC reach its goal of eradicating homelessness. In addition to my support of social housing, I have several other innovative ideas for affordable housing expansion in my platform, including utilizing community land trusts, cooperative housing, tiny home builds, and modular housing.

*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.*