



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?

Raising taxes on the wealthy can help reduce income inequality by redistributing wealth and resources to fund programs that benefit lower-income individuals and families. I know the District imposed a similar tax recently. I would like to better understand the specific policy proposal and what the trade-offs could be.

- 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. In the abstract I support this plan and would like to learn more about it.

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?

Increasing the number of mental health providers is essential for meeting the growing demand for services, addressing treatment gaps, improving access to care, facilitating early intervention and prevention efforts, enhancing treatment options, and reducing the burden on other systems. Investing in a robust mental health workforce is crucial for promoting the well-being of individuals and communities alike.

3. **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, investing in unarmed models of crisis response with culturally competent responders who can respond quickly is a valuable approach to addressing mental health crises and promoting community safety and well-being. It will also free up armed police to respond more quickly to public safety emergencies.

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?

D.C.'s nondiscrimination laws are only effective if they are fully implemented and enforced. I support efforts to ensure that the Office of Human Rights has the staffing and budget it needs to meet the intent of protections that have been enacted.

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?

I am interested in working closely with GLAA to find a solution that respects the autonomy of sex workers while protecting their health and reducing stigma.

7. **Decriminalize Drug Use.** Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?

Removing criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use can help address issues of mass incarceration and reduce the stigma associated with substance use. It's also crucial to recognize the complexities involved in drug policy reform, including concerns about public safety, community impact, and the potential for unintended consequences. I welcome an opportunity to meet with GLAA to learn more about specific policy proposals.

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?

I support increased oversight of our jails. Doing so plays a critical role in safeguarding the rights, safety, and well-being of individuals in custody. It also promotes accountability, transparency, and upholding the principles of justice and human dignity.

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?

I believe that social housing would work best when the land is owned by the DC government and when DC owns the building as this would create more accountability and help to solve some of the issues that plague public housing. This model could also lead to longer-term affordability if locally funded (as opposed to using LIHTC) and perhaps allow for tenants to stay as their incomes grow.

*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.*