



Back to Basics

2026 GLAA Questionnaire

The following questions are based on [Back to Basics: GLAA Policy Brief 2026](#). 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. Fight for Home Rule.** To protect DC's LGBTQ+ communities, will you oppose every single effort to infringe on DC's autonomy?

Yes, standing up for DC is one of my top priorities, and that means defending DC autonomy, supporting federal workers, and protecting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, especially trans people facing attacks from the Trump administration.

There are two choices in a time of rising authoritarianism: collaboration or resistance. As Ward 1's Councilmember, I will leverage my office's power to stand up for DC autonomy, advance our fight for Statehood, and protect the people of DC from a hostile federal government.

I will do this by:

Organizing to make DC Statehood a national issue: I am grateful to have been endorsed by

national organizations like Run for Something and Working Families Party, and to have relationships with Congressional Democrats from my years of organizing in the Democratic Socialists of America. DC needs leaders who know how to build, maintain, and leverage such relationships to fight for Statehood – not only here in DC, but in every single jurisdiction around the country. DC Statehood is a vital fight for our entire democracy, and everyone across the US should understand what is at stake, and what could be possible should we finally have full autonomy and representation in Congress.

Defending DC autonomy, democracy, and civil rights: As a prominent organizer in DC, I have attended and had the opportunity to speak at actions and marches with thousands of DC residents marching for Statehood & DC autonomy. Whether it was the January People’s March, the September We Are All DC March, October No Kings rally, or the actions led by the Families not Feds Coalition, I believe strongly in locking arms with fellow residents to fight for autonomy. From fighting back against rollbacks on District laws to protecting and expanding the rights of LGBTQ+ and immigrant residents to standing up for bodily autonomy and abortion access, I will work every day to make sure DC residents are protected from federal overreach as we organize to advance our cause of Statehood. I will also work to ensure that unhoused neighbors receive the safety and dignity they deserve, without undue cruelty from a federal force as we saw this summer. I have also joined Free DC’s (and Hands Off DC before them) lobbying efforts on the hill to defend DC’s budget and legislation from federal interference. And I have organized protests, actions against the Federalist Society, and teach-ins around bodily autonomy, reproductive justice, and LGBTQ+ protections.

Defending DC residents’ civil rights also means defending democratic decisions made by voters – such as implementing ballot initiatives our voters have passed. I was a [lead organizer to pass Initiative 82](#) and have [continuously shown up at the Wilson Building](#) to fight for full implementation. If elected, I will not undermine our own democracy by thwarting the will of the voters as the Council has now done twice to prevent truly ending the subminimum wage for tipped workers.

Enforcing and defending the Sanctuary Values Act: This past January at a Families not Feds Coalition event outside the Wilson Building, I called for an end to the illegal federal occupation of the District, the end to MPD collaboration with ICE, and the strengthening & enforcement of our sanctuary status. I also have joined my neighbors in community defense and mutual aid efforts around the Ward and have attended and helped organize events focused on strategizing around how to protect the LGBTQ+ community and immigrants during this administration. These are core tenets for what I would advocate for on the Council if elected. LGBTQ+ immigrants are some of the most vulnerable members of our community, and I would bring the fight to Council and work to end MPD collaboration with ICE, close loopholes in our sanctuary laws, support communities facing constant attacks from the federal government, and hold public officials accountable when they break the law. DC’s own Mayor has facilitated attacks on home rule by complying in advance with the Trump agenda by attacking immigrants herself, attempting to repeal the Sanctuary Values Act, stripping immigrants of healthcare benefits, and making DC a less affordable and safe city. As a Councilmember, I will fight to ensure that we do not comply in advance, that the Sanctuary Values Act remains intact, and that there are consequences for officials who break it. Finally, I will fight to fund free, quality public immigration legal services. I support a program modeled after the successful [New York Immigrant Family United Project](#), which provides immigration public defenders to prevent wrongful deportations.

Fighting for federal workers: With the maximum benefit for unemployment set at just \$444 a week, many federal workers have not been adequately served by DC's safety net, which is why I will fight to raise benefits and fix the unemployment insurance system. Additionally, I will work to make sure that former federal workers have a pipeline into District government agencies, so that DC gets stronger with an influx of high skilled workers into the areas we need it most.

Relevant background :

- [Platforms](#): “Stand Up for DC” ([released 9/18/25](#)) and “DC for Workers, by Workers” ([released 10/6/25](#))
- Organized actions to protest the Federalist Society ([7/14/22](#) - not pictured, was taking the pictures)
- Organized midnight protest after the Supreme Court Dobbs decision was leaked ([5/3/22](#))
- Organized and led a DSA event with ~300 attendees to get involved with local organizing after the 2024 presidential election ([11/16/24](#))
- Helped organize the local contingent of the 2025 Women's March ([1/18/2025](#))
- I reference fighting for federal workers, immigrants, and queer and trans folks in [campaign launch video](#) (8/12/25)
- [My first public statement](#) taking a stand against the federal occupation, specifically naming the harm done by federal forces abducting undocumented neighbors (8/14/25)
- [Video of community actions I attended](#) which prominently featured statements against ICE and deportations (8/19/25)
- [Participation in multiple events to call for ICE and the National Guard to leave DC](#) and stand up against ICE collaboration (8/24/25)
- [Statement](#) condemning the Trump administration's overreach into local affairs and its exorbitant cost to taxpayers in the face of inhumane cuts to social services (8/27/25)
- [Attending another march to 14th and U](#) to demand an end to the federal occupation (8/30/25)
- [Statement](#) opposing federal overreach and attacks on immigrant neighbors (9/2/25)
- Attending and [posting photos from the We Are All DC March](#) along with a statement opposing MPD's cooperation with ICE (9/6/25)
- [A follow-up video from the We Are All DC March](#), in which I spoke with Latino neighbors and others from around Ward 1 to hear about their concerns and experiences during the occupation (9/9/25)
- I [testified before the DC Council's Public Works and Operation Committee](#) about MPD's collaboration with ICE and human rights violations happening here on our streets. I have made additional statements since that time as well (10/29/25)
- [Statement](#) on DC autonomy and statehood (11/19/25)
- [Trans Day of Remembrance post](#) affirming that I will always stand with trans people in the fight for employment protections, life-saving gender-affirming care, and to live proudly (11/20/25)
- [Post about Home Rule](#) and community actions I participated in (12/24/25)
- [Statement and post about community actions in solidarity with the people of Minneapolis](#) after ICE murdered Renee Good (1/8/26)
- [Spoke at a Families Not Feds action](#) to demand local officials push back against federal authoritarianism and protect our immigrant communities (1/16/25), and posted [follow-up video](#) ahead of the budget cycle (3/6/26)
- [Abolish ICE](#) (1/24/26)

- [Speech at Bi Night](#) (2/18/26)

These and all other posts are also available on my [Twitter](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#).

- 2. Stop Enabling Federal Overreach.** Will you refuse to cooperate with the Federal Government in its undemocratic use of power, including the authoritarian deployment of National Guard troops?

Yes. I have [testified before the Council](#) about what federal overreach has done to our communities. In October, I spoke at the Committee on Public Works and Operations about my experience on the ground, protecting our residents from warrantless attacks, and how federal overreach has instilled fear in our communities. As Councilmember, I would work with my colleagues to call for additional public hearings to ensure Ward 1 constituents' voices can be heard and acted upon within the Wilson Building. I would also use the oversight powers of the office and craft and support legislation that closes loopholes in our Sanctuary Values Act, such as Councilmember Janeese Lewis George's Safe Community Places and Policing Act, which would end MPD's transportation of ICE agents in District-owned vehicles.

I am proud to have shown up to support neighbors in getting to work and school safely in the face of ICE. I regularly support ICE watch in the northern part of Ward 1, and I volunteer with the Bancroft Safe Streets team, where I've seen firsthand how dangerous it is for so many of our neighbors to get to work or for students to get to school. If elected, I will take what I have seen on the ground and dedicate constituent services resources to bolster community organizing and mutual aid, especially to help kids get to school safely, support federal workers, and provide unhoused neighbors with resources to ensure that all Ward 1 residents can feel safe in the midst of federal overreach. I will also work with the Office of Human Rights on improving and enforcing protections for vulnerable communities like immigrants, the unhoused, and queer and trans folks.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): "Stand Up for DC" ([released 9/18/25](#))
- Have helped pack groceries and keep an eye out for ICE since the start of the occupation in August 2025 (no photos)
- Volunteered with Justice for Muslims Collective in 2019-2020 to provide immigrant Know Your Rights trainings to local employers

- 3. Invest In a Just Legal System.** To support LGBTQ+ people involved in the legal system, do you support limiting pre-trial detention at a minimum to the evidence-based laws in place before 2023 and investing more resources into civil legal help?

Yes, I will fight to end pretrial detention. We know that the root cause of harm and violence is poverty and that the safest communities are the ones with the most resources. When we prioritize mass incarceration over prevention, we miss opportunities to keep people safe in the first place.

That's one reason I'm fighting to guarantee people's basic needs: a safe, stable home; a good job with a living wage; and access to health care, including mental health services, which help people thrive, rather than funnel them into the criminal punishment system. Instead of relying on failed, punitive approaches, we should invest in what works: prevention and opportunity for young people.

Our youth have been made especially vulnerable due to over-incarceration and longtime disinvestment in housing, healthcare, and other programs, and the Trump administration's attacks on the District. I will fight to eliminate curfew zones. There is no evidence that curfews reduce youth crime or victimization, and [research consistently shows](#) they're ineffective at achieving their stated goals. Curfews risk criminalizing normal adolescent behavior, especially for Black and brown youth, and pushing young people further out of public life and further into the criminal system without improving public safety. Even youth who are legally exempt are still subject to being stopped, questioned, and forced to justify themselves to police. That is not how we build trust or keep communities safe.

We need to invest in actually effective public safety interventions, as well as our youth. That is why one of my top priorities is funding free childcare for every kid in DC, as research shows that early childhood education can significantly reduce crime in the long term because high-quality childcare helps students learn healthy socio-emotional skills. I would fight to ensure our schools are well funded, especially wraparound services provided by school counselors, non-police crisis intervention, and behavioral specialists. In DC, education funding as a share of the District's economic capacity is low: DC only spends 2.2% of its gross state product on education, while the U.S. average is 3.4%. Underfunding means less access to mental health services and programming that helps young people grow with the support they deserve. I would also invest in expanding after-school programming, third-spaces such as community and recreation centers with more hours outside of school times, and youth development programs such as the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, which give young people safe, supportive environments to learn, connect, and simply be kids without being criminalized. These programs help make sure kids consistently attend school and are set up for success. Reducing truancy is proven to reduce the risk of future arrests.

We also must invest more in civil legal aid. Year after year, Mayor Bowser has sought to cut programs that support lower income residents' access to legal help, such as Access to Justice (ATJ) and the Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG), and year after year the Council has scrambled to restore these critical programs. Research shows that civil legal services make a [huge impact](#) in the day-to-day lives of the people of the District, funding lawyers who not only support tenants, homeowners, public benefit recipients, domestic violence survivors, and others facing legal issues, but also serve as critical advocates and partners in crafting and advancing policy that improves the lives of low-income Washingtonians. If elected, I will prioritize not only ensuring these programs are fully funded, but expanding them so legal services organizations have more capacity to support low-income District residents. This includes funding immigration public defenders so that no one facing detainment or deportation is forced to do so without legal representation.

I will also prioritize long overdue public safety interventions, especially fixing our broken emergency response system. Due to chronic underfunding, outdated technology, and understaffing, first responders take too long to get to emergencies or even get sent to the wrong address, with life threatening consequences. I also believe that certain emergencies, like mental health crises or substance abuse issues, should be handled by trained community responders, rather than the police. The District's Crisis Response Team presents one alternative to calling the police when individuals are experiencing mental health crises, and as Ward 1 Councilmember I would support expanding this resource so such crises are responded to by professionals able to deescalate and help connect people with much-needed services and supports. Independent community responder programs such as those in Denver and Oakland have been successful in deescalation, providing the best treatment to people, and connecting people to additional wraparound services, increasing safety for the long term. Finally, I will fight for greater investment in violence interruption programs such as Cure the Streets. Although we only have limited data, the best evidence we have shows that those programs have reduced gun violence in hot spots in Ward 1 and elsewhere.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Free Childcare for All” ([released 12/4/25](#)) and “Keeping Our Communities Safe” ([released 4/14/26](#))
- [Statement](#) on DC autonomy and the unjust federal reinstatement of cash bail and repeal of local police reform (11/19/25)
- [Joined Hands Off DC](#) actions to lobby against Congress repealing DC's revisions to the criminal code (was taking pictures, so not pictured myself :) 3/29/23)

4. **Safe and Warm Homes.** In light of disproportionate representation of LGBTQ+ among people without stable housing, do you support strengthening and enforcing the existing laws and investing the District's resources to end homelessness in DC?

Yes. The District's homelessness crisis reflects a series of breakdowns in our housing systems with deadly consequences. **In 2024, 120 people died while unhoused.** As a tenant organizer, I believe that safe, quality, and accessible housing is a fundamental human right, and as Councilmember I will fight for housing policy that puts working families first.

LGBTQ+ residents experience homelessness and housing insecurity at disproportionately high rates due to discrimination, familial rejection, lack of culturally competent services, and systemic inequities. These problems are particularly acute among LGBTQ+ youth, trans people of color, and those in need of long-term support such as people living with HIV and seniors. As Ward 1 Councilmember, I will fight to fully fund voucher programs and continued funding for dedicated housing programs for LGBTQ+ residents, including transitional and permanent supportive housing, LGBTQ+ senior housing such as Mary's House in Ward 7, expansion of services in Ward 1 for LGBTQ+ residents experiencing housing insecurity, and the development of a comprehensive strategic plan to end LGBTQ+ youth homelessness in the District.

I will also ensure outreach workers and service providers have the resources they need to serve our unhoused neighbors with dignity, and hold agencies like the Department of Human Services, DC Housing Authority, and the Department of General Services accountable for their failures. This is more important than ever, because hundreds of DC residents are at risk of losing [federal emergency housing vouchers in 2026](#). I will fight to replace that funding with local dollars, which would prevent a significant increase in homelessness. Further, I will use my oversight power to hold DHS and DCHA accountable for chronic voucher wait times, lease-up delays, and bureaucratic barriers to getting people in safe housing.

I will also fight to fully fund the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), starting with reversing drastic cuts in the FY26 budget and anticipated cuts in FY27. Before the pandemic, ERAP was chronically underfunded, and in the years since it has been poorly administered. Its application portal routinely closed within hours of opening because demand far exceeded supply, families were forced to stand outside for hours just for the chance to get an appointment. I will also address the District's failure to maintain safe, clean, and dignified shelter spaces where people can stay while waiting for housing placements – and will work to specifically expand options for LGBTQ+ individuals who often experience higher barriers to shelter. I support expanding transitional housing programs to ensure that those matched with vouchers have a place to stay while awaiting lease-up — a crucial resource given how long it takes for someone to finally get keys to their new home, and support expanding dedicated funding for housing vouchers specifically for LGBTQ+ individuals.

At the same time, I believe more residents, and especially renters, should have more power in the future of their housing and communities. That is why I will fight for systemic solutions to house all of DC's residents, from expanding rent control to all multi-family buildings and protecting critical rights such as the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) to keep people in their homes, to passing social housing legislation to build permanently affordable, decommodified homes for all.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Housing for People, Not for Profit”
- Organized alongside tenants since 2019; some photos: ([anti-eviction canvassing](#), [Wilson Building action](#) alongside tenants organizing at Marbury Plaza, supporting [tenants](#) in court during OAG suit against the building, collecting [petitions](#), [action](#) to get STAY DC funds released to tenants, [supporting Buena Vista](#) in Ward 1 becoming a co-op, [protest outside](#) the White House ahead of the eviction moratorium expiring, [protest](#) to push for STAY DC/ COVID emergency rental assistance funds to be released locally)
- [Rally](#) to protect Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (4/30/25)
- [Statement](#) on DC's Housing Department (11/16/25)
- [Renter](#) (3/9/26) and [tenant organizer](#) (3/12/26)
- [Tenant Power Rally + Canvass](#) with Councilmember [Janeese Lewis George](#) (3/9/26)
- [Thread](#) about DC's proposed Future Land Use Map (3/19/26)
- [Video 1](#) on RENTAL Act and Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (10/22/25)
- [Video 2](#) on RENTAL Act and Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (10/22/25)

- [2025 budget protest](#) fighting for more funding for housing and other basic needs
- [Explainer video](#) about Comp Plan 2025 and the proposed Future Land Use Map (4/1/26)
- Spoke at and helped organize a history of tenants rights walking tour in Columbia Heights ([3/11/24](#))

5. Abundant and Nutritious Food. Do you support increasing the nutrition assistance program benefits to fill the gap created by the federal government?

Yes. I previously worked at DC Greens, a local food justice nonprofit, to fight for healthy food for all. That included advocating for expansions to SNAP, fighting to end senior hunger, and ensure good food purchasing requirements in DC Public Schools. One in four LGBTQ+ adults [experience](#) food insecurity, and LGBTQ+ youth and seniors are especially vulnerable. And with barriers to housing and employment, queer and trans people face greater challenges finding economic stability. During last year's budget cycle, before the occupation, we saw the DC Council strip tenant protections, zero out housing vouchers, cut health care for low income residents (predominantly immigrants), cut tipped workers' wages, and cut wages for childcare workers. These steps worked to make people who are homeless, immigrants, lower-income people, and others in DC even more vulnerable to the eventual occupation. I have [protested to pressure Mayor Bowser to increase SNAP benefits](#), and as Councilmember I will fight to use local funding to fill gaps caused by federal budget cuts to critical nutrition assistance programs and make sure our budget funds go to strengthening our communities by funding housing, schools, and other life-giving resources to make DC more resilient against possible federal overreach.

The federal government's scale back of cash and nutrition benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program will only drive more people deeper into poverty. By reinstating work requirements, reestablishing time limits, and restricting access to assistance for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), the Trump administration has signaled its intent to drive more people into poverty by increasing the bureaucracy of program administration. It is not simply that benefits themselves will decrease - though they will - it is also that many individuals and families will lose their benefits entirely because of misplaced paperwork, missed deadlines, or communications breakdowns with eligibility workers at the Department of Human Services.

The District cannot afford to deepen inequality by restricting access to lifesaving programs like SNAP and TANF. If elected, I will work to ensure these programs continue serving the residents who need support most, eliminating unnecessary red tape, and ensuring that our local budget makes up the difference for a federal government that refuses to care for our people.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): "Good Schools for All" ([released 10/23/25](#)), which includes free school meals
- [Quote](#) for DC Voters for Animals about healthy food systems, including improving jail food standards and advancing high food procurement standards (4/15/26)
- [Protest](#) calling on Mayor Bowser to fully fund SNAP (1/1/24)
- [Food Tank interview](#) talking about the food access work at DC Greens

6. Power to the People. Do you commit to providing economic relief to DC's LGBTQ+ residents and businesses by investing in energy and water infrastructure that prioritizes the people of DC over corporate profits?

Yes. My top climate policy priority is to strengthen oversight of DC's investor-owned utility monopolies—ultimately, by transitioning to public ownership. The District's for-profit utilities have hiked up energy bills, cut off heat and power to thousands of working families, and have failed to deliver on DC's climate commitments. That's why I attended the Green Budget Day of Action last year to demand that DC's climate initiatives stay funded in the FY 2026 budget and have long called for DC to move to a publicly-owned utility in the long term.

In the immediate term, I'm fighting to reform the Public Service Commission (PSC), the government body that is charged with regulating utilities in the public interest. In recent years, the PSC has uncritically approved major rate increases while ignoring their responsibility to the District's clean energy commitments. I'll work to fix the PSC by: locking the revolving door between the PSC and for-profit utilities; blocking Commissioners who don't prioritize the clean energy transition; and pushing the PSC to effectively review utility spending and monitor rate increases. I'll also fight to ban utility lobbying using ratepayer funds—which is important because DC's Washington Gas company has lobbied to reverse DC's climate commitments. And in the long run, I'll work to put the people in charge of our energy future by transitioning to public ownership.

While utility regulation is my top climate priority, I'm not stopping there. I'll defend DC's climate commitments from special interests working to roll them back. I'll fight to fully fund the District's Solar for All program, which would help 100,000 DC households lower their bills with clean energy. High utility bills are driving up the cost of living for DC residents, forcing families to choose between putting food on the table and missing a gas bill and making it difficult for long-time residents to stay in their homes. New, more efficient electric appliances are a key way to help residents immediately lower their bills. And particularly when paired with installing solar panels through programs like Solar for All or through the installation of balcony solar, these upgrades can even reduce household utility bills to zero. We must make the District more climate resilient by increasing our local grid capacity and reducing reliance on the larger PJM interconnection, which has not been able to build regional capacity to keep up with demand.

I also support protecting critical special purpose funds such as the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Fund and the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF), including full funding for DC's Affordable Home Electrification Program as established by the Healthy Homes Act. By reducing household reliance on fossil fuels, the Healthy Homes Act is a critical way to speed up the clean energy transition while putting low-income residents first in line. I will fight to make sure that clean energy jobs are good, union jobs that provide pathways to the middle class. And I'm running to [expand fast, reliable public transit and to win a Green New Deal for Social Housing](#). And I will work with DC Water to ensure that lead pipe replacement is a straightforward, simple process accessible to as many residents as possible – and conduct rigorous oversight to ensure the

District stays on track to replace all lead pipes with copper pipes as quickly as possible.

Relevant background:

- [Platforms](#): “Fast, Affordable Transit” ([released 10/11/25](#)) and “Housing for People, Not for Profit,” which includes green social housing
- [Explainer video](#) about Pepco’s rate hikes (2/26/26)
- People Power for Public Power [event](#) and [taking](#) We Power DC’s [Public Power Pledge](#) (3/19/26)
- [Rally](#) outside Pepco to call for DC to transition to public power (6/9/22)
- Facilitated conversation with author Femi Taiwo about public power and clean energy organizing ([4/16/25](#) - beginning clip)

7. Health Care is Human Right. Will you use every tool within your power to ensure transgender youth and adults have access to healthcare in DC?

Yes, as Councilmember, I will fight to expand healthcare access for transgender youth and adults, including dedicating funding to life-saving trans healthcare programs and fighting to create a “public option” for comprehensive healthcare coverage in the District. In 2025, DC received federal approval to launch the Healthy DC Plan, replacing Medicaid for individuals in the District with incomes between 138% and 200% of the federal poverty line. This so-called Basic Health Plan can be the vehicle for a transformative buy-in public option program for residents interested in getting more access at lower cost. If elected, I will propose to open up eligibility for the Healthy DC plan to all District residents, with a maximum premium cost of 8.5% of household income and deductibles no higher than \$1500 yearly. By opening up this plan to DC’s 43,000 employees, the 80,000+ individuals receiving health care through small business sponsorship, and the 14,000 participants in the DC Health Link individual marketplace, DC can create a competitively priced plan that can deliver high value care and hold healthcare price inflation down for all of us. At a time when health care providers for the queer and trans community like [Whitman Walker](#) are seeing spikes in uninsured patients, and when LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be uninsured, the public option provides a real, quality insurance option. Additionally, this public option must cover gender affirming care for our queer and trans residents in DC.

I will also advocate for increasing funding for the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), a key concern in our community during a time when we are facing the prospect of significant setbacks due to federal budget cuts. These programs have been under specific attack by a hostile federal government, and the District must find ways to fill the gap to ensure HAHSTA funding remains intact. I will also work to pass legislation such as the Certificate of Need Improvement Amendment Act of 2024 and other efforts to increase access to behavioral health services and the number of culturally competent providers.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Stand Up for DC” ([released 9/18/25](#))
- [Trans Day of Remembrance post](#) affirming that I will always stand with trans people in the fight for life-saving gender-affirming care (11/20/25)
- [Speech at Bi Night](#) (2/18/26)

- Tabling at a [Trans Day of Visibility](#) event at As You Are Bar on a trans sanctuary city campaign in VA (3/31/24)
- Organized COVID vaccine outreach with MDC DSA ([5/1/2021](#))

8. Health Care is a Smart Investment. Do you commit to opposing cuts to the Health Care Alliance and Medicaid health insurance programs to balance DC’s budget?

Yes, as Ward 1 Councilmember, I will fight to build the healthcare system that we deserve, which will put our belief that healthcare is a human right into practice. In the face of the Republican onslaught on healthcare freedom – from gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare to insuring immigrant neighbors – we must pursue policies that put people over healthcare profits. If elected, I will fight to:

Expand the DC Basic Health Plan and DC Healthcare Alliance programs. With cuts to Medicaid and the Alliance programs now locked in, it is more important than ever to expand low-barrier coverage plans. DC has received CMS approval to run a Basic Health Plan with limited benefits for residents up to 200% of the federal poverty line. I will fight to make that program as close to Medicaid benefits as possible, such as by adding dental and behavioral health coverage. I also support expanding coverage to anyone who wants to buy into the program, creating a “public option” for comprehensive healthcare coverage in the District which covers all essential care (including behavioral health, gender-affirming care, and reproductive and sexual health). Similarly, we must fight to preserve the Healthcare Alliance program to ensure non-citizens can also access comprehensive healthcare coverage. Healthcare is a human right and shouldn’t depend on immigration status.

Strengthen the capacity of community providers to deliver primary and preventive care. As un- and under-insurance rises, we should make it easier and easier to see primary care doctors and nurses early – before we end up so sick we have to go to a hospital or an ER. Many states now require insurers to spend a minimum threshold on primary care to generate savings, which can be bundled into better community capacity to serve everyone regardless of insurance status. I support similar regulations in DC, with the goal of doubling the proportion of healthcare spending that goes to primary care doctors and nurses.

Enhance the District’s focus on social drivers of health across the whole of government. Many of my policies focused on economic and social empowerment are about protecting the health and well-being of our neighbors. If workers are underpaid, tenants are exploited, debtors are impoverished, or residents are criminalized instead of cared for, the results appear in our health outcomes and statistics. This is why there is a 20+ year gap in life expectancy between the District’s most segregated neighborhoods. I will use the oversight powers of the office to hold our healthcare and public health systems accountable to achieve improved health equity across every aspect of my work as Ward 1 Councilmember.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Stand Up for DC” ([released 9/18/25](#))
- [Trans Day of Remembrance post](#) affirming that I will always stand with trans people in

- the fight for life-saving gender-affirming care (11/20/25)
- [Speech at Bi Night](#) (2/18/26)
- [Protest](#) outside Wilson Building to restore funding for essential programs to the DC budget, including Healthcare Alliance (7/13/25)

9. Access to Public Benefits. Do you commit to creating the most accessible system for program beneficiaries possible to minimize LGBTQ+ people not being able to access benefits due to bureaucracy?

Yes. I will defend policies that improve services and increase legal protections for DC residents of all gender and sexual identities, starting with DC’s Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022 and DC’s Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity. I will leverage my oversight powers to ensure that these laws are being implemented and enforced – including by making sure that healthcare providers, schools, and other public services do not comply with the Trump Administration in advance. I will fight to expand access to anti-discrimination laws at the Office of Human Rights and invest in support services and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that work with LGBTQ+ residents to uplift and empower these communities, especially trans people of color. These laws reflect DC’s best values, but laws mean little without real enforcement. Today, far too many marginalized residents face barriers when trying to assert their rights, and this is especially true for queer and trans people of color. This issue is compounded by delays at OHR – cases can often take years to resolve, and by the time they have been resolved, the resolution does not materially improve the lives of those harmed.

LGBTQ+ residents experience homelessness and housing insecurity at disproportionately high rates, which can make it difficult to prove residency and acquire the government-issued ID required to access many public benefits. I will fight to ensure all LGBTQ+ residents can access the resources and services they need to live a dignified life by increasing the availability of the DC social services proof of residency form, in particular by expanding secondary documentation and self-attestation options for residency verification.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Stand Up for DC” ([released 9/18/25](#)); “Making Government Work for You” ([released 1/28/26](#))

10. Fight Crime At The Source. Do you support decriminalizing sex work and making better investments in violence prevention activities?

Yes, I support the decriminalization of sex work. All workers deserve to have their rights protected. While some people believe that criminalizing sex work protects gender-marginalized people from violence or trafficking, the reality is that criminalization just puts sex workers at increased risk. Transgender women, especially transgender women of color, are frequently

profiled by police as sex workers – just for being themselves and walking around their neighborhoods. And too many transgender people are pulled into the criminal legal system for doing sex work, which can lead to arrests, incarceration, deportation, and other collateral consequences. Decriminalizing sex work also allows sex workers to seek out health care and legal resources, as well as report when they're subject to violence on the job. For similar reasons, I also support moving towards a harm reduction model of drug policy. In particular, I support opening an overdose prevention center, as DC leads the country in percentage of deaths due to drug overdose and is second only to West Virginia in the number of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people. Overdose prevention centers (like those in New York City) have a demonstrated track record of saving lives, by preventing overdoses in the moment with access to onsite medical professionals, limiting transmission of infections by making clean needles available, and connecting people to mental health and substance abuse treatment. And, as stated above, I support investing in community responder programs for nonviolent emergencies as well as our existing violence interruption programs to try to prevent interpersonal violence.

Relevant background:

- [Platform](#): “Keeping Our Communities Safe” ([released 4/14/26](#))
- [Statement](#) on DC autonomy and the unjust federal reinstatement of cash bail and repeal of local police reform (11/19/25)

Please return your questionnaire responses in PDF format by 11:59pm ET on Friday, April 24 to equal@glaa.org.