

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. I have consistently and fiercely defended DC's autonomy for years. I have worked to develop relationships with members of Congress to help educate them about the importance of DC Statehood and to be our champions. I will also continue to be active in resident actions at the Capitol and elsewhere to join grassroots movements fighting for DC Statehood. And when Home Rule or DC laws are threatened, I won't stay silent or sit out the fight. As I have demonstrated, I will speak out and show up to declare clearly and loudly why DC Statehood is needed now more than ever.

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 do not support MPD cooperation with ICE, as it has resulted in neighbors being snatched off our streets by masked, armed federal agents and has eroded community trust in MPD, which is essential for solving crimes and improving public safety. I led the Council committee that passed the law prohibiting the DC Department of Corrections from collaborating with ICE, and I have also recently co-introduced legislation to strengthen it around prohibiting MPD coordination. I will continue to speak out and call for an end to coordination, conduct oversight over MPD, support strategic litigation, and pass laws to fill in potential gaps. I also do not support the deployment of the National Guard to patrol the streets of DC. For the same reasons given above about MPD, I think the presence of the National Guard has only harmed our efforts to improve public safety, it is undemocratic, and it is unlawful.

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?

I believe that judges are generally best-positioned to determine whether a defendant should be held in jail pending trial, as they usually have the benefit of hearing from law enforcement, the prosecutor, the defense, and the victim. Judges also have a very detailed risk assessment before them from the Pre-Trial Services Agency, the accuracy of which has resulted in nearly all defendants released pre-trial for violent crimes not reoffending during that period. I do think, for some of the most serious crimes, that defendants should be presumed detained, given the higher likelihood of risk to the community, but again, this should be a fact-specific determination. If the evidence showed that current law was lacking in some respect, I would want to learn more, but the evidence so far strongly supports maintaining PSA's risk assessment process and judicial discretion in most cases without expanding a presumption further. Allowing most defendants to remain in the community, under supervision if necessary, actually allows them to maintain the employment, housing, and relationships that are more likely to prevent reoffending.

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 FY26 budget was severely lacking in investments that would address homelessness. Looking ahead to FY27, this needs to change, and I would consider additional revenue to ensure that we have sufficient Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers, Local Rent Supplement Program vouchers, and funding for non-congregate shelters. We should not balance our budget to favor those with the most at the expense of those with the most need. In the past, I have also [led the Council](#) through the budget process to identify additional revenue specifically to reduce homelessness.

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

Yes. At a time when harsh cuts by the federal government have led to reductions or elimination of Medicaid and SNAP benefits, now is the time for local government to strengthen or at least protect these vital programs for our most vulnerable neighbors. Just as DC created the Alliance at a time when need outpaced the care that federal Medicaid provided, the District needs to strengthen and fund the Alliance to ensure residents losing coverage or benefits have the care they need. I am not afraid to consider tax proposals to ensure that Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF are sufficiently funded to meet the needs of DC residents in this moment. I also support the full restoration of DC's Office of Food Policy and Food Policy Council, which the Mayor has proposed eliminating in this budget.

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?

I believe this question is asking about programs to support access to utility affordability assistance. As the Chair of the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment, I have championed these programs. I have twice restored the majority of the Mayor's cuts to energy and water affordability initiatives through the Department of Energy and Environment, Sustainable Energy Utility, and DC Green Bank; I passed legislation - the Healthy Homes Act - to dramatically expand electrification for low-income residents; I've introduced legislation to make it easier to transition to solar in the face of Pepco's barriers to clean energy adoption; I've introduced legislation to expand the footprint of solar installations on government property and reduce our reliance on gas; and as mentioned elsewhere, I've introduced legislation to make enrollment automatic for DC's utility assistance programs for low-income residents.

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. Given the frequent and dangerous attacks on trans youth by the Trump administration and federal government, it is more important than ever that the District protect and ensure access to comprehensive, gender-affirming care for trans youth throughout our city.

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?

As a public health advocate prior to serving on the Council, I helped advocate for the creation of the Alliance, and I strongly support full restoration of the program. It is a program that has

saved lives and provided health insurance to those who did not otherwise qualify for other federal or local healthcare insurance programs. When its elimination was first proposed, I feared that many would delay important care decisions or forgo them altogether. I believe my fears are now coming to fruition. To ensure full funding of the program, and to make sure that those most vulnerable have access to health insurance going forward, I intend to make it a priority as we consider the FY27 budget.

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. For example, I introduced legislation this Council Period to streamline the enrollment process for programs that provide utility assistance to low-income residents. I believe automatic enrollment should be a standard practice across all of our government programs so that we do not continue to ask residents to prove their poverty over and over again.

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

I generally support the decriminalization of commercial sex work for consenting adults, and I believe that the District should begin having community conversations about the impact of the criminalization of commercial sex work on District residents, and particularly LGBTQ+ residents and residents of color. When legislation had been before the Judiciary Committee during my tenure as chair, I believed that the bill required broad coalitions and significant investments of time and effort in community engagement in order to gain support from Committee members and move forward successfully. This engagement did not take place prior to the bill's introduction. There could be many and serious unintended and negative consequences from legislation, specifically around past proposals to decriminalize the solicitation of sex, pandering, and brothel operations, and the effect decriminalization might have on survivors of sex trafficking and on sex workers.

As a legislator, I am committed to health- and social services-based supports for individuals who consensually engage in sex work and those who are trafficked. I also recognize that legislation – particularly criminal justice legislation – must move forward with a broad base of coalition, community, and Council support. I am committed to a continued partnership with both sex work and anti-trafficking advocates on the long-lasting and collateral consequences of the criminalization of women and LGBTQ people who engage in commercial sex.

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