

GLAA Questionnaire

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Fight for Home Rule. To protect DC's LGBTQ+ communities, will you oppose every single effort to infringe on DC's autonomy?

Yes. DC Statehood is the most urgent LGBTQ+ issue facing the District. Without it, every protection we build for trans and nonbinary residents, for Black queer women, for LGBTQ+ youth, remains vulnerable to federal override.

A hostile Congress can block or reverse local laws that safeguard our communities. Under the current administration, it is an active threat. If elected, I will reintroduce any legislation subject to Congressional interference so that residents are governed only by laws their elected officials have consented to and enacted.

An independent Attorney General is essential to this fight, mounting legal challenges to unconstitutional federal interference before it takes hold. But litigation alone is insufficient. Statehood is the structural foundation. It means legislative and judicial independence, and full self-determination for every DC resident. Until we have it, I will oppose every effort — legislative, executive, or administrative — to infringe on DC's autonomy.

Statehood is not aspirational. It is the infrastructure of freedom for every unenfranchised District resident, and it is the civil rights issue of our time.

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 will prohibit MPD from cooperating with ICE on nonviolent offenses. That is not a negotiating position. Local law enforcement's mandate is community safety, not federal immigration enforcement. When residents fear that contacting police could trigger immigration consequences, they stop reporting crimes, stop seeking help, and stop cooperating with investigations. That makes every resident less safe.

As a school leader, I established a clear and non-negotiable policy: ICE, the National Guard, and any other federal agency were not welcome on our campus without a judicial warrant. I will bring that same standard to citywide governance.

What is happening in the District now is not a policy disagreement. It is an occupation. The federal government's deployment of National Guard troops in DC is an assertion of power over a city whose residents have never been given the full democratic rights they are owed. I will refuse to facilitate or legitimize that deployment, and I will use every legislative and legal tool available to resist federal overreach, including working with an independent Attorney General to challenge unconstitutional actions in court.

The District must not become a staging ground for authoritarianism. I will stand firmly against it.

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. Pre-trial detention must be governed by evidence, not fear or political pressure. The reforms enacted before 2023 reflected years of data and advocacy demonstrating that over-detention harms individuals, families, and communities, disproportionately LGBTQ+ people of color — without improving public safety outcomes. Rolling back those reforms does not make the District safer. It makes it less just.

I oppose any expansion of pre-trial detention beyond what the evidence supports, and I will use Council oversight to resist efforts to weaken the legal standards that protect residents from unnecessary incarceration before they have been convicted of anything.

Civil legal aid is equally essential. Through my wife's work, I have been able to assist legal groups in expanding access to legal representation, and I have seen firsthand how transformative it is when someone facing discrimination in housing, employment, or healthcare finally has a lawyer in their corner. I have also seen how often that access does not exist, particularly for LGBTQ+ residents navigating a system that was not built with them in mind, especially given the condition of the DC Jail.

That experience has shaped my commitment to this issue. Many LGBTQ+ residents have valid legal claims but no means to pursue them. A just legal system requires not only fair laws but the infrastructure to make those laws accessible — with culturally competent providers who understand the specific vulnerabilities LGBTQ+ residents face. I will advocate for dedicated, sustained funding for civil legal services as a matter of both equity and public safety, and I will bring to that work the urgency of someone who has watched his family fight for it every day.

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. LGBTQ+ people, particularly transgender youth, LGBTQ+ seniors, and LGBTQ+ people of color, are significantly overrepresented among DC residents experiencing homelessness. This is not incidental. It is the cumulative result of family rejection, employment discrimination, inadequate legal protections, and decades of disinvestment in the communities most at risk.

As a school leader, I saw this reality up close. Housing instability does not stay at the door when a student walks into a classroom. I watched children try to learn while carrying the weight of not knowing where they would sleep that night; students were already navigating family rejection or identity-based harassment on top of everything else. That experience made clear to me that homelessness is not an abstract policy problem. It reshapes a young person's entire trajectory, and LGBTQ+ youth face it at rates that should trouble every elected official in this city.

I support strengthening and enforcing DC's existing housing protections, including the Human Rights Act and the Youth Homeless Amendment Act, and closing the implementation gaps that allow those laws to exist on paper without delivering results.

This investment must be geographically intentional. Communities east of the Anacostia River have faced decades of policy neglect — not by accident, but by design — and any serious housing equity agenda must explicitly prioritize them. Workforce housing, deeply affordable units, and permanent supportive housing must be built where the need is greatest, with residents at the table shaping what gets built and for whom.

Revitalization must be built with communities, not imposed on them. Everyone deserves a safe, stable home in the city they love.

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

Yes. When the federal government cuts nutrition assistance, DC residents go hungry — and LGBTQ+ residents, who face higher rates of poverty, housing instability, and employment discrimination, are among those hit hardest.

I learned during the pandemic just how central a school can be to a community's survival. What began as making sure our students had enough to eat quickly expanded — first to their parents, then to neighbors and community members who had nowhere else to turn. A school building became a lifeline. That experience taught me that hunger does not respect the categories we build around institutions, and that the government cannot either. When people are in need, the response has to meet them where they are.

That is the standard I will apply to nutrition assistance. The District has both the authority and the obligation to fill the gap left by federal cuts. I support increasing local nutrition assistance benefits to compensate for federal reductions and expanding access for LGBTQ+ residents who may face additional barriers — including documentation requirements, hostile service environments, or lack of culturally competent outreach.

I will also advance a Government as a Service model so that residents can navigate nutrition assistance alongside connected supports, including housing counseling, healthcare enrollment, and job training, through a streamlined, accessible system rather than a fragmented bureaucracy that loses people at every step.

Food security is a precondition for health, stability, and dignity. The District should not outsource that responsibility to a federal government that has abdicated it.

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. DC's LGBTQ+ residents and small businesses should not bear the burden of energy and utility costs that reflect corporate priorities over public ones. Infrastructure investment must center on affordability, reliability, and equity.

That means prioritizing clean energy access in communities that have historically borne disproportionate environmental burdens, supporting targeted utility relief for low-income and LGBTQ+ residents, and ensuring that infrastructure contracts are subject to rigorous public accountability. The same communities east of the river that have faced decades of disinvestment in housing and healthcare have also faced the greatest exposure to environmental harm. Equity in infrastructure is inseparable from every other equity commitment I am making.

The District's resources should serve District residents. I will fight to ensure they do.

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. Transgender youth and adults in DC must be able to access gender-affirming care without interference, delay, or discrimination. I will use every tool available as a Councilmember, legislative, budgetary, and oversight, to protect and expand that access.

That means defending DC's existing gender-affirming care protections, ensuring Medicaid covers trans-related healthcare, and holding the Department of Health accountable for enforcing anti-discrimination obligations across every provider. It also means investing in the pipeline of culturally competent providers and funding community health organizations that serve trans and nonbinary residents, particularly Black trans women, who face compounding vulnerabilities in both healthcare access and safety.

Black women in DC already experience disproportionately high maternal mortality rates. Trans women of color face additional layers of discrimination and exclusion. Healthcare equity requires confronting those disparities directly, not just removing formal barriers.

Federal hostility to trans healthcare makes local action more urgent, not less. The District must be unequivocal: healthcare is a human right, and we will protect it.

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. The Health Care Alliance and Medicaid are not line items to be negotiated away. Tens of thousands of DC residents, including a disproportionate share of LGBTQ+ residents, primarily access medical care through Health Care Alliance and Medicaid. Cutting these programs to close a budget gap doesn't solve a fiscal problem. It shifts costs onto the most vulnerable residents and produces worse long-term outcomes at greater public expense.

While the Mayor's FY27 budget proposes maintaining Alliance coverage for current participants, it restricts new participants, reflecting broader fiscal pressure on our healthcare system. I will protect and strengthen the DC Healthcare Alliance, not scale it back.

I will build on the Nurse Triage Line in the Office of Unified Communications as the first point of access to affordable care by doubling its capacity, ensuring it serves residents, especially seniors, without transportation. This expansion will include required training in culturally responsive care as part of a pipeline of comprehensive care.

I will fund a Community Health Workforce Academy through a partnership between UDC, the Department of Health, and DOES. This program will train and place community health workers in clinics, senior centers, churches, and public housing across Wards 4, 5, 7, and 8, helping residents enroll in coverage, manage chronic illness, and access prescriptions as part of my vision for African-American residents' access to affordable and comprehensive care.

Finally, I will introduce pay equity legislation for LPNs, CNAs, and home health aides, and require workforce housing in District-subsidized developments to meet demand for comprehensive coverage.

Investing in healthcare is not just the right thing to do. It is the economically sound thing to do. Healthy residents are more productive, more stable, and less reliant on emergency services. The Alliance and Medicaid are investments in the District's long-term strength, and I will defend them.

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. Bureaucratic barriers are not neutral. They disproportionately exclude the people with the fewest resources to navigate them. For LGBTQ+ residents, those barriers are compounded by hostile or uninformed service environments, documentation requirements that don't reflect lived realities, and systems that were never designed with their needs in mind.

I will advance a Government as a Service model across every District agency that administers public benefits. In a city with world-class technology and talent, it is indefensible that residents must navigate 19th-century administrative processes to access the services they are entitled to. That means plain-language communications, streamlined enrollment, multilingual access, trauma-informed service delivery, and a single point of entry where residents can access benefits, referrals, and support without starting over at every agency.

This is not just an efficiency goal. It is an equity mandate. The District owes every resident — including every LGBTQ+ resident — a government that works for them.

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

Yes. Criminalizing sex work does not eliminate it. It drives it underground, increases violence, and makes workers less likely to report crimes or seek help. That reality has direct consequences for child safety: when sex markets operate in the shadows, exploitation and trafficking become harder to detect and prosecute. LGBTQ+ people, and particularly trans women of color, are disproportionately represented among people who engage in sex work and disproportionately harmed by its criminalization. Bringing these markets into the open is one of the most powerful tools we have for identifying and protecting children who are being exploited.

On violence prevention, I will invest in the infrastructure that actually works: community intervention programs, violence interrupters, mental health providers, and community aides deployed through the Office of Unified Communications so that crises are met with the right responders — not a default to police. These are not alternatives to public safety. They are public safety. And protecting children from exposure to violence and exploitation is central to that mission. Children who grow up surrounded by unaddressed violence are more vulnerable to every form of harm — including trafficking and abuse. Prevention is protection.

For young people specifically, the answer is investment, not restriction. I will work to reintegrate non-instructional programming — athletics, arts, mentorship, and career pathways — into our middle schools so young people build connection, routine, and a sense of their own worth before the pressures of high school overwhelm them. Young people who are connected and engaged are also safer: they are less likely to be targeted by those who exploit vulnerability, and more likely to speak up when something is wrong. Behavior is communication. When we respond with punishment instead of support, we guarantee worse outcomes. Children need a city that has invested in them first — and that investment is also the strongest legal and social protection we can offer them.