



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. DC residents pay federal taxes, serve in the military, and contribute to this country in every way that citizenship demands, without a vote in Congress or full control over their own local government. That is the daily reality my constituents live with, and it shapes every decision I make on the Council.

In my first weeks in office, I met with DC's Shadow Senator to align on statehood strategy. I co-introduced permanent and emergency legislation (Full Accountability in Arrest Reporting Amendment Act of 2026 and Full Accountability in Arrest

Reporting Emergency Amendment Act of 2026) requiring full identification of all officers, both local and federal, at the scene of an arrest, with their names and agencies listed in arrest reports. I voted to advance legislation mandating public release of MPD body-worn camera footage in cases involving use of force by federal agents. These are direct responses to what is happening in our communities right now.

I also believe the Council needs a dedicated federal relations office, not just a lobbyist, so DC's voice on the Hill is consistent and strategic rather than reactive. LGBTQ+ residents in this city depend on local protections that federal overreach threatens directly, and I take that seriously.

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 will refuse to cooperate with the federal government's undemocratic use of power in DC, including the authoritarian deployment of federal troops or agents against residents.

The concrete steps I have already taken: I co-introduced permanent and emergency legislation (Full Accountability in Arrest Reporting Amendment Act of 2026 and Full Accountability in Arrest Reporting Emergency Amendment Act of 2026) to increase transparency and accountability around any coordination between MPD and federal agencies, including ICE and Homeland Security Investigations. I co-introduced legislation requiring full identification of officers at arrest scenes because residents, including LGBTQ+ residents who already have reason to distrust law enforcement, have a constitutional right to know who is detaining them and under what authority.

I will continue using my legislative and oversight authority to press back against federal overreach, and I will not support any action by MPD or other District agencies that enables the federal government to use DC resources against its own residents.

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?

Pre-trial detention causes real harm before anyone has been convicted of anything. People lose jobs, lose housing, and lose custody of their children while cases are still pending. LGBTQ+ people, and particularly Black and brown LGBTQ+ residents, are more likely to face this kind of contact with the legal system, and more likely to be

harmed by it. The 2023 changes were not grounded in evidence that it improved safety, and I believe that we should reexamine those changes.

Civil legal help is the other side of this. Expanding civil legal services is about making the justice system work for everyone, and those who are unable to navigate it on their own.

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. I support strengthening and enforcing existing laws around housing stability and investing the resources needed to actually end homelessness in DC.

Homelessness falls disproportionately on LGBTQ+ residents, and particularly on LGBTQ+ youth of color. That is not an abstraction. This is the population that ends up in shelters or on the streets at higher rates, and our shelter system has not always been a safe place for them. I have worked with the LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition and heard directly that affirming shelter spaces are a real need, not a secondary concern.

On the investment side, I support funding shelters and short-term housing to a clear standard: clean, safe, and staffed to provide wraparound services including mental health support, workforce development, and childcare. I also support converting vacant office buildings into short-term housing distributed across all eight wards, because no single neighborhood should bear the full weight of this challenge.

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 have been consistent on this point throughout the budget process. At my first Mayor-Council breakfast as a Councilmember, I said directly that the District cannot balance its budget solely through cuts to health and human services. I helped fund DC's first guaranteed basic income pilot, the Strong Families, Strong Futures program, which provides \$1,000 per month in direct cash assistance to new and expectant mothers in Wards 5, 7, and 8. Direct cash and nutrition assistance work together, and both matter.

LGBTQ+ residents experiencing housing instability or economic hardship are among those most likely to be food insecure. I will advocate in the budget process

for maintaining and expanding nutrition assistance, and I will advocate at the federal level for restored funding through the Child Care and Development Fund and other programs that keep people fed and stable.

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. One of the questions I have heard most often since taking office is simple: why are my utility bills going up? I serve on the Committee on Transportation and the Environment and have already attended oversight hearings on the Public Service Commission to understand how regional data centers, energy supply costs, and rate structures are driving increases that fall hardest on people with the least flexibility in their budgets. That oversight work is ongoing and I intend to keep pressing.

Further, I will oppose raiding the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund that is supposed to fund the Healthy Homes Act.

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. The federal government's attacks on transgender health care make DC's local protections more important than ever. I support investing in culturally competent providers and community health centers that can serve LGBTQ+ patients with the expertise and dignity they deserve. I am aware that traditional health care systems have historically failed communities of color and LGBTQ+ communities, and I believe building alternatives, including community clinics and affirming providers, is part of how we repair that.

I will oppose any attempt by Congress or the federal government to use DC's budget or oversight mechanisms to restrict access to gender-affirming care, and I have already co-authored a law that protects access to gender-affirming care in DC - the Insurance Regulation Amendment Act of 2024.

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. I said clearly at my first Mayor-Council breakfast that the health and human services cluster cannot bear the full weight of our fiscal constraints. The District has other tools: performance oversight to find savings in programs that are not delivering results, closing tax loopholes like the one I led the charge to close last fall

involving wealthy investors avoiding taxes on out-of-state municipal bonds, and restructuring tax abatements that drain revenue without producing proportional community benefit. Those are the approaches I will press before allowing residents' health coverage to be cut.

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 support simplifying enrollment processes, reducing paperwork burdens, expanding language access, and making sure that residents are not forced to navigate multiple agencies with no support or clear answers. I will use my oversight authority to examine how programs are reaching, or failing to reach, the people who need them most, with particular attention to LGBTQ+ residents and communities of color.

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

Yes, I support decriminalizing sex work and making better investments in violence prevention. I plan to work with my colleagues to increase investments in proven approaches to reduce violence, especially domestic violence. This can include grant funding for community based organizations who already do this work successfully.

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