

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 stood up for DC's right to self-governance on the Council. As Mayor I will defend Home Rule from Day One. I will bolster resources for the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel to mount constitutional challenges to every federal action that infringes on DC's authority. I will build coalitions with mayors and governors across the country who are facing the same federal overreach, because collective advocacy carries real weight. I will use every public platform available to make DC's case to the American people. Congressional interference in our self-governance is an attack on democracy that resonates well beyond our borders. I support DC statehood, and as Mayor I will double the size and budget of the Office of Federal and Regional Affairs to aggressively lobby Congress and fight for full legislative and budget autonomy year-round.

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. On Day One, I will issue a directive ending MPD cooperation with ICE. DC's local law enforcement will not be used as an instrument of federal overreach. A McDuffie Administration will have clear red lines: federal control of immigration enforcement in DC, Congressional rescission of locally funded programs, and federal control of MPD or our criminal legal system. Each will be met with litigation, public advocacy, and non-cooperation where legally permissible. DC is the only jurisdiction in the country where the executive lacks control over the National Guard, and that is fundamentally undemocratic. Changing that will be a priority of my federal agenda. District agencies will be directed to continue implementing locally enacted laws to the fullest extent permitted while legal challenges proceed, so residents do not lose services in the middle of a fight. I will never compromise DC's legal autonomy or sacrifice residents' rights in exchange for federal goodwill. That boundary will be unambiguous from the start of my administration.

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?

No, with an important qualification. I support the pretrial detention provisions that Secure DC put in place for the most serious offenses, including murder, kidnapping, armed carjacking, first-degree child cruelty, and first-degree sexual assault. These are public safety and domestic violence issues. However, I would not go further than where the current laws stand today. That said, I am deeply committed to a fair and equitable legal system. I served as a civil rights trial attorney in President Obama's Justice Department, where I worked to hold law enforcement accountable and protect the constitutional rights of people who had been wronged by the system. I authored the Expanding Access to Justice Amendment Act, which created DC's "Civil Gideon" program, guaranteeing low-income residents the right to counsel when facing eviction, and I will expand civil legal help so that LGBTQ+ residents navigating the legal system have real representation and real recourse. LGBTQ+ people, particularly Black and brown transgender individuals, face disproportionate contact with the criminal legal system, and my

administration will invest in non-police response teams and community-based alternatives to incarceration so these residents are treated with dignity at every stage. I will strengthen the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs and work with legal aid organizations to identify and remove the specific barriers LGBTQ+ people face when seeking civil legal help, from housing court to family law to employment discrimination claims.

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. LGBTQ+ youth homelessness is the most urgent housing crisis facing our community right now. We do not have enough dedicated beds, funding, or resources, and in my administration that will not be the status quo. My administration will not conduct illegal sweeps. I will work hand in hand with the community organizations that are on the ground every day, because they know what residents need and they have earned a seat at the table. I will strengthen housing and homelessness services specifically for transgender, non-binary, and LGBTQ+ youth, creating specialized, safe, and permanent housing solutions that address the disproportionate instability this community faces. As Councilmember, I authored legislation directing half of the annual District surplus to the Housing Production Trust Fund and passed the Expanding Access to Justice Amendment Act to guarantee legal representation for tenants facing eviction. As Mayor, I will build on that record with real investment. I will fully enforce DC's existing nondiscrimination laws in housing, employment, and public services, and make certain that LGBTQ+ residents fleeing violence or discrimination have wraparound support services as part of any housing placement.

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

Yes. Food insecurity among LGBTQ+ residents, who are disproportionately impacted by housing instability, poverty, and discrimination, is a health crisis, and my administration will treat food access as health infrastructure. I will push to create a dedicated Food Equity Fund capitalized through DC general revenues and federal nutrition dollars, with a multi-year appropriation structure that removes food access investment from annual budget fights and gives providers the stability to plan. Where the federal government fails to provide adequate nutrition assistance, DC must step up with local dollars. I will protect and expand local nutrition benefit programs and aggressively enroll eligible residents, including LGBTQ+ individuals, through coordinated, barrier-free intake. I will use targeted tax incentives, District-owned land dispositions, and direct negotiations to bring full-service grocery stores to food desert communities, because every DC resident should be able to walk to a grocery store. I will expand the Connector Card program so residents in food-scarce wards can reach full-service grocery stores, and grow medically tailored meal programs, including for LGBTQ+ residents managing chronic health conditions, as part of a food-as-medicine approach.

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. I will create a single "DC Utility Help Center" where residents can check eligibility and sign up for electric, gas, water, and internet discounts in one place, available online, by phone, or in person, so LGBTQ+ residents dealing with financial instability do not fall through bureaucratic cracks. I will authorize automatic enrollment in LIHEAP, the Utility Discount Program, and water bill assistance for residents who already qualify for programs like SNAP and TANF, because no eligible household should leave support on the table. I will direct DC's regulatory agencies to open an "Affordability Docket" so every major utility rate case is judged on its measurable impact on household budgets in every ward, with the people of DC driving those decisions. I will make long-term, zero-down-payment utility repayment plans a right for DC residents, and require arrearage management programs that forgive a portion of debt for every on-time payment, creating a realistic path out of utility debt. LGBTQ+ small businesses, especially those owned by Black and brown community members, will be a priority in my energy affordability agenda, and I will partner with the DC Commission on Small and Local Business Development to extend equitable access to energy efficiency incentives and utility relief programs.

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. I will defend and fully enforce DC's nondiscrimination laws in healthcare. No provider receiving District funds will be permitted to turn away transgender patients, and I will expand access to affirming care, including mental health and gender-affirming care, across all wards. With the federal government attacking transgender healthcare across the country, DC must be a defender of the LGBTQ+ community. I will use local dollars and the full authority of the Mayor's office to protect and expand transgender healthcare access regardless of what happens in the federal government. I will implement Health Equity Impact Audits on health regulations that could affect LGBTQ+ residents, so any measure that worsens access for transgender youth or adults is flagged and rejected. I championed the creation of the Mayor's Commission on Health Equity as a Councilmember, and as Mayor I will expand that commission's mandate to explicitly address transgender health disparities and strengthen the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs' capacity to support community health programs. I will partner with Federally Qualified Health Centers and community health organizations to expand affirming urgent care capacity, particularly east of the river, so geography and income are never barriers to healthcare for any transgender DC resident.

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. Cutting the Health Care Alliance or Medicaid to balance the budget is the wrong approach. These programs are the floor beneath which no DC resident should fall, and I will protect them. I will use local dollars to fill any coverage gaps created by federal Medicaid cuts, and I will work to expand what the Alliance covers, including behavioral health integration, so it functions as genuine healthcare and not a bare-minimum safety net. Budget decisions reflect values, and my values are clear. I will protect coverage for every resident, including LGBTQ+ individuals who rely on the Alliance and Medicaid for gender-affirming care, mental health services, and primary care. I will pursue progressive revenue strategies, including a full evaluation of our tax structure, before accepting cuts to healthcare programs that low-income, Black, brown, and LGBTQ+

residents depend on. The cost of losing coverage always exceeds the cost of maintaining it. I will implement a "Taxpayer Value, Patient First" accountability framework with transparent performance dashboards for publicly funded health institutions, so the District gets real value from its healthcare investments and has clear grounds to enforce accountability where obligations are not met.

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. Too many residents, including LGBTQ+ individuals who face discrimination, housing instability, and economic hardship, do not receive the benefits they already qualify for because the system is confusing and fragmented. I will fix that. I will create a single "one-door" system so that help is easy to find and easy to keep, accessible online, by phone, and in person, and I will make certain that system is designed with LGBTQ+ residents in mind, including those whose gender identity may create documentation barriers. I will authorize automatic enrollment into utility assistance, nutrition programs, and other benefits for residents who already qualify through other programs, so that eligible LGBTQ+ households never leave support on the table due to paperwork or bureaucratic complexity. I will strengthen the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs and direct it to actively identify benefit access barriers specific to the community, including for transgender residents whose legal documents may not match their identity, and work with agencies to remove those barriers. My administration will track benefit enrollment rates by identity and geography, with public dashboards showing progress, so that we have real accountability for closing the gap between who is eligible and who is actually enrolled, particularly for Black and brown LGBTQ+ residents who face the steepest barriers.

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

No, not fully. I do not support decriminalizing sex work. I recognize this is an area where thoughtful people disagree, and I take the concerns of advocates seriously, but my record as a civil rights trial attorney and former prosecutor shapes how I see this issue. The evidence on full decriminalization is contested, and I am not persuaded that it produces the safety outcomes its proponents promise, particularly for the most vulnerable people involved, including LGBTQ+ individuals and transgender women of color who are disproportionately impacted by violence in the sex trade.

However, I am fully committed on violence prevention. I authored the NEAR Act, which created DC's public health framework for violence prevention and intervention, and as Mayor I will fully fund and expand it. That means investing in violence interruption programs, mental health services, workforce pathways, and community-based support that address the conditions that make people vulnerable in the first place. LGBTQ+ residents, and transgender women of color in particular, face some of the highest rates of violence of any group in our city. My administration will direct real resources toward the organizations and programs that are already doing this work on the ground, and I will hold my administration accountable for measurable

results. Fighting crime at the source means addressing poverty, housing instability, and lack of economic opportunity, and those investments will be a centerpiece of what I do as Mayor.