

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.

DC State Board of Education (Ward 6 Representative and President): I led the Board in passing the District's first-ever comprehensive health and sexuality education standards, requiring age-appropriate instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity for every student from PreK through 12th grade. We faced organized opposition, and I worked the votes to pass the standards almost unanimously.

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington (Board Member): I help ensure DC residents have access to gender-affirming care, PrEP, STI and HIV testing and treatment, birth control, emergency contraception, and abortion care. With gender-affirming care under coordinated attack by the far-right, this work is more urgent than ever.

Chief of Staff, DC Office of the Attorney General: During my time as Chief of Staff for AG Karl Racine, OAG created a dedicated Civil Rights Section to proactively investigate and go after systemic discrimination, particularly in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Under my supervision, our community engagement team led the office's first-ever citywide education and engagement sessions to introduce the office and hear concerns directly from residents, with targeted outreach to the LGBTQ+ residents.

2014 Mayoral Campaign: I took a public, high-risk stand for David Catania, a long-time LGBTQ+ champion, when many of my friends and colleagues were aligned elsewhere, because standing with allies matters.

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 will oppose every effort to infringe on DC's autonomy. Our LGBTQ+ residents are particularly exposed when Congress or the White House reaches into local law. The same federal actors attacking home rule are actively working to roll back civil rights protections, restrict gender-affirming care, and erase LGBTQ+ identities from public life. I will use the Council's oversight authority to push back on every Congressional rider and disapproval resolution targeting DC law; fight to protect our locally-raised dollars from federal interference; and continue to advocate for full voting rights and statehood as the only long-term fix. I will partner with DC Vote, FreeDC, our Shadow Delegation, and our next Congressional Delegate's office to mobilize residents, and I will show up at the Wilson Building, on the Hill, and in our neighborhoods to make the case that we decide what's right for our city.

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 not cooperate with the federal government's undemocratic use of power. The first video I released as a candidate called on the Mayor to fully disclose any agreements, MOUs, or informal practices between DC agencies and federal immigration or military authorities. I have said plainly that ICE is not acting as a legitimate law enforcement agency, and I will work to end MPD cooperation with ICE; pursue legislation keeping federal enforcement away from schools, hospitals, courthouses, and shelters; and prohibit the use of DC-owned property for federal enforcement activity. LGBTQ+ immigrants, trans residents, and sex workers face disproportionate risk from federal policing, and DC must not be complicit.

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 support limiting pre-trial detention to cases where it is truly necessary for public safety or to ensure someone returns to court, based on clear, evidence-based standards, not as a default. I also support investing more in civil legal help. LGBTQ+ people, particularly Black and brown trans women, are over-represented at every stage of the legal system, and pre-trial incarceration can destabilize housing, employment, healthcare, and family connections before any finding of guilt. Restorative justice and diversion programs have shown they can produce better outcomes for both victims and young people than traditional prosecution. We also need to strengthen DC's civil legal aid ecosystem, including tenant counsel, consumer protection, family law, name-and-gender marker changes, and immigration defense.

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 and investing the District's resources to end homelessness in DC. In my current role at Covenant House Greater Washington, I work every day with young people, a disproportionate share of them LGBTQ+, who are navigating housing instability, and I have seen how Housing First, paired with wraparound supports, changes lives. As a Councilmember, I will fight to restore funding for Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers. The FY26 budget funded zero new PSH vouchers, which is unacceptable. I will also expand Targeted Affordable Housing, rapid rehousing done right, and LGBTQ+-specific programs. I oppose criminalizing homelessness; encampment clearings without real housing offers push people further from services. I will also push for stronger enforcement of DC's Human Rights Act against landlords who discriminate against LGBTQ+ tenants.

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 support using local dollars to increase nutrition assistance and fill the gap created by federal cuts. LGBTQ+ residents, and especially LGBTQ+ seniors, youth aging out of care, and people living with HIV, face elevated rates of food insecurity, and the federal SNAP cuts and new work requirements will push thousands of Washingtonians off benefits altogether. DC has precedent for locally-funded wraparound benefits through the DC Healthcare Alliance, and we can do the same on nutrition: local SNAP supplements, emergency food assistance, and sustained funding for the Produce Rx Program, Joyful Food Markets, and community-based food partners. I will also fight to make benefits easier to keep through auto-renewal, data matching across DHS, Medicaid, and DCHA, and more caseworker capacity, so people do not lose food support because of paperwork failures.

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 invest in energy and water infrastructure that prioritizes DC residents. I support the Healthy Homes Act and funding it through a protected Sustainable Energy Trust Fund. The SETF has been raided repeatedly, and I will push to tighten statutory language so the Fund cannot be swept for unrelated uses. I support expanding Solar for All, LIHEAP, and the Utility Discount Program so low- and moderate-income residents, who are disproportionately LGBTQ+ in certain neighborhoods, see lower bills, not higher ones, during the energy transition. I will scrutinize Pepco, Washington Gas, and DC Water rate cases at the Public Service Commission and support strong consumer advocacy through the Office of the People's Counsel.

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 use every tool within my power to ensure transgender youth and adults have access to healthcare in DC. As a Board Member of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, I have fought to protect gender-affirming care, and I understand that the federal campaign against trans people (executive orders, HHS guidance, Medicaid threats, and hostile Congressional riders) is designed to intimidate providers and erase patients. DC must be a firewall. I will support legislation and budget actions to: shield DC providers and patients from out-of-state prosecution and federal data demands; maintain Medicaid and Alliance coverage of gender-affirming care at every age appropriate under clinical guidelines; fund Whitman-Walker Health, Children's National's gender clinic, La Clínica del Pueblo, and other affirming providers; protect name and gender marker change processes from federal interference; and ensure the Office of Human Rights is resourced to enforce anti-discrimination protections in health care.

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 commit to opposing cuts to the DC Healthcare Alliance and Medicaid to balance the District's budget. Roughly 25,000 Alliance enrollees, many of them immigrants, many of them LGBTQ+, would lose coverage if the program is eliminated, and Medicaid cuts would push thousands more off insurance. These are not savings; they are cost shifts to emergency rooms, to DC Health, to housing programs, and to our neighbors' health and lives. I will push for local dollars to backfill federal Medicaid eligibility losses where possible, preserve Alliance eligibility and enrollment, protect coverage of gender-affirming care, mental health care, HIV care, and reproductive care.

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 commit to building the most accessible benefits system possible so LGBTQ+ Washingtonians are not locked out by bureaucracy. Most benefit losses in DC happen not because people are ineligible, but because of paperwork failures: missed recertifications, mismatched addresses, caseworker backlogs, and systems that do not talk to each other. I will push for: auto-renewal and ex parte renewal wherever federal rules allow; data matching across DHS, DHCF, DCHA, and OSSE so a resident enrolled in one program is presumptively enrolled in others; plain-language, trans-inclusive forms that do not force people to choose a sex marker inconsistent with their ID; adequate caseworker staffing and language access; and community navigators embedded in trusted LGBTQ+ organizations. I will also press DHS on accessibility for residents with disabilities, seniors, and people without stable housing or internet, groups that overlap significantly with our LGBTQ+ community.

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 between consenting adults and making much stronger investments in violence prevention. The current criminal framework does not make anyone safer. It pushes sex workers, and especially trans women of color, away from police when they are victims of violence, away from health care, and away from the services that could help them exit the trade if they choose to. Decriminalization, paired with continued strong enforcement against trafficking, sexual violence, and the exploitation of minors, is the approach that centers safety and dignity. I would welcome a serious, evidence-based Council conversation, including directly impacted sex workers at the table, about how DC's framework could change. On violence prevention more broadly, I support a balanced approach that holds violent offenders accountable and invests in prevention, including tackling affordability, investing in youth-centered programming and job opportunities, trauma-informed behavioral health and the DBH / MPD co-responder models, and supporting returning citizens with housing, jobs, and services so they do not cycle back into the system.

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