

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 will oppose every effort to infringe on DC's autonomy. Home Rule is essential to protecting our LGBTQ+ communities, advancing equity, and ensuring DC residents control the decisions that shape our lives. This fight is especially important given DC's history as a predominantly Black city, where attacks on local self-government have often been tied to efforts to silence Black political power and block progress.

I organized Ward 5 neighbors and residents across the District to fight back against congressional interference to stave off efforts to apply additional budget riders, seize control of MPD, and or gin up our tax process. I have been unequivocal and loud in opposing every attempt to undermine Home Rule, whether through attacks on our laws, our budget, or our values. Defending Home Rule is about defending democracy, liberation, and the right of DC residents to build a more just and inclusive future.

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 support the federal government's undemocratic abuse of power, including the authoritarian deployment of National Guard troops into DC over the objections of local leaders. Members of the National Guard are heroes who serve

honorably, but they did not sign up to be used as political props to intimidate communities or override local democracy.

I have used my platform as a Councilmember to loudly denounce these actions because we cannot normalize troops on our streets for political theater. More outside law enforcement, especially forces not rooted in DC communities, only increases the risk that LGBTQ+ neighbors are over-policed and criminalized. I am especially concerned about our young people, and I am actively looking for better alternatives to the youth curfew that focus on safety, support, and opportunity rather than punishment.

We have seen in places like Hungary what can happen when authoritarian tactics become normalized and institutions fail to push back. DC must stand firmly for democracy, civil rights, and local self-determination.

- 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 a fair, evidence-based pre-trial system that limits detention and protects due process, while recognizing that pre-trial detention is appropriate when there is clear and substantial evidence of a violent, heinous crime and a genuine risk to public safety.

I joined colleagues in placing stronger parameters around extending pre-trial detention and requiring data to justify any expansion. Too many people, including LGBTQ+ residents, are detained before their court date without sufficient evidence, disrupting housing, employment, healthcare, and family stability before guilt has been determined.

As Chair of the Council's Committee on Youth Affairs, I've also worked to implement more community-based placements, expand education and supportive services, grow pre-apprenticeship programs, and strengthen re-entry support because young people deserve rehabilitation and a real path forward. Not to mention, these efforts counter detention and ensure more young people have the tools and opportunities to thrive.

We should continue to decenter overly carceral approaches and invest in prevention, treatment, and opportunity.

- 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 strongly support strengthening and enforcing our housing laws and investing District resources to end homelessness in DC, especially because LGBTQ+ residents are disproportionately impacted by housing instability.

I led Council efforts to fund housing vouchers dedicated to neighbors experiencing homelessness, support the LGBTQ+ center, and advance housing first policies that connect people to stable housing with the services they need. I have also consistently fought for affordable housing and helped bring more than 1,000 housing units online in Ward 5.

Right now, I am working with the Office of Planning to ensure the Draft FLUM reflects the city's housing needs and allows for more housing development in the right places. Expanding housing supply, preserving affordability, and investing in supportive housing are essential to helping LGBTQ+ neighbors and all residents find stable homes. Ending homelessness requires urgency, compassion, and sustained investment. And I remain committed to that work.

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 increasing local nutrition assistance benefits to help fill gaps created by the federal government and ensure DC residents can afford healthy, reliable food.

I'm also actively working to combat harmful TANF cuts that would hurt families across the city, including many LGBTQ+ residents who rely on these supports during difficult times. We should be strengthening our safety net, not weakening it.

Through my work on the Council of Governments' FARM Committee, I've helped advance stronger regional food and agriculture pipelines so more fresh food reaches our communities. I support local food hubs and urban farms doing critical work across the District, including Edgewood Community Farm and Black and Forth in Ward 5, Lederer Gardens in Ward 7, and Dreaming Out Loud in Ward 8.

I've supported policies like the Give SNAP a Raise Act and introduced legislation to improve the District's food procurement systems so food reaches residents more efficiently. No one in DC should go hungry.

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 am committed to providing economic relief to DC's LGBTQ+ residents and businesses by investing in energy and water infrastructure that puts people before corporate profits.

I have been a strong champion for environmental justice and consumer-focused energy policy. I introduced legislation to ban water shutoffs by DC Water because access to water is a basic human need, and shutoffs are inhumane and harmful to residents already struggling to make ends meet.

I also joined Council efforts to stop unlimited customer charges tied to Washington Gas Project Pipes, ensuring residents are not forced to carry unchecked costs. Right now, I am supporting emergency action to provide immediate relief by banning shutoffs at Pepco for 90 days as residents face the latest rate hike.

Reliable utilities should be affordable and accessible. I will continue fighting for policies that lower costs, protect residents, and hold utility companies accountable.

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. Access to healthcare, including gender-affirming care, is a matter of dignity and basic human rights.

The latest actions by the Supreme Court of the United States are deeply concerning and underscore the growing national threat to transgender people and their healthcare access. That makes it even more important for DC to lead.

I am also closely examining why local hospitals have moved away from providing gender-affirming care, including decisions like Children's National Hospital ending its gender clinic services. Residents deserve transparency and a healthcare system that meets community needs.

I will continue fighting to protect providers, support inclusive care, and ensure DC remains a safe place where transgender residents can access the healthcare they need without fear or political interference.

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 am staunchly opposed to balancing DC's budget through cuts to the Health Care Alliance or Medicaid. These programs are lifelines for thousands of residents, and reductions would put even more LGBTQ+ neighbors at risk of losing access to preventive care, treatment, and essential health services.

That is why I authored and passed the DC PrEP Act, which expanded access to PrEP medications, prohibited unnecessary prior authorizations, and helped ensure insurance barriers do not stand in the way of needed care. I have also fought to replace proposed cuts to Medicaid and the Alliance because healthcare should be protected, not sacrificed during budget decisions.

I will continue fighting to preserve and strengthen coverage so all residents, especially those most vulnerable, can access the care they need.

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 am committed to creating the most accessible system possible so LGBTQ+ residents and all beneficiaries can access the support they need without unnecessary bureaucracy, delays, or confusion.

I am currently working with the Committee on Human Services to reroute grant funding from the LGBTQ+ Affairs Office to a non-political source to promise longterm, sustainable funding for LGBTQ neighbors, and ensure these resources are protected from being misused or treated like a slush fund. I also led efforts to make the Office on LGBTQ+ Affairs independent, reflecting direct feedback from the community that services must be more accountable, responsive, and trusted.

We should be bringing care to the people, not forcing people to navigate a maze of agencies. That means creating one-stop shops where residents can access housing help, food assistance, healthcare enrollment, workforce support, and other benefits in one place. Government should meet people where they are and make it easier, not harder, to get help.

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 stronger investments in violence prevention. Criminalization often pushes people further into unsafe situations, especially transgender residents and others who have historically relied on sex work to survive because they were shut out of stable employment, housing, and opportunity.

We owe our trans siblings and all vulnerable residents real pathways to economic security. That is why I led efforts last year to fund transgender workforce grants through the Department of Human Services, helping connect residents to job training, employment opportunities, and sustainable career fields after those funds were cut by the Mayor.

Public safety starts with prevention: housing, healthcare, mental health support, and jobs. We should focus on reducing harm, expanding opportunity, and investing in community-based violence prevention strategies that keep people safe without criminalizing poverty or survival.