

**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC  
2014 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

- 1. Will you act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. Government employees, to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery)? [Note: this question has been overtaken by events since it was drafted at the start of 2014. Study the Mayor's executive action here: <http://tinyurl.com/kn2dzty> ].**

Yes, I would act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C Government employees. In addition, after reviewing the proposed study from the Mayor's office, it indicated that the office sent out a bulletin to the health insurance companies throughout the city addressing anti-discrimination in the insurance code. This shows that our city is moving towards becoming one city. Furthermore, we must recognize that some residents have gender dysphoria and/or gender disorder which is out of their control. As Council-member, I will assure that all residents are treated fairly on all matters; especially health issues.

- 2. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment?**

Yes, I would support a budget that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population.

- 3. Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?**

Yes, I will support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions. As Council-member, it will be an obligation to ensure that the existing laws meet the needs of the residents in our city. I would not solely rely on the physician's diagnosis; it takes a collective effort between the community, Council members, and the diagnosis to assure that residents with and/or without medical are being properly addressed in a way that falls in compliance with DC's laws and regulations.

- 4 Describe steps you will take to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.**

In order to improve the performance of preventing HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STDs, etc, it is important to make sure that our sex education programs are being properly funded

throughout the city. As Council-member I will come up with innovative ways to promote ways to prevent these sexually transmitted diseases.

**5. Will you press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data?**

Yes, I would press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics. I would also hire an oversight task force to independently investigate each and every crime to assure that none of the crimes committed against the transgender population are hate crimes. I want to be crystal clear when I say that there is nothing more important than the safety of the residents in our city; despite their sexual preferences. Subsequently, if a person is found guilty of a hate crime there needs to be serious consequence.

**6. What will you do to provide alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to sex work for survival?**

This is my theory on the matter. In many of these situations it is very difficult for parents and fellow students to accept our transgender youth. As a result, our youth run away from home and dropout of school which leaves them no choice but to rely on sex as a way of survival. As Councilmember, I proposed that we open up two schools in opposite quadrants of the city to house and educate our homeless at-risk youth to prevent them from relying on sex as an option. This will help decrease the homeless youth in our city.

**7. Will you support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training to all police officers, including in the handling of intimate partner violence?**

Yes, I will support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training. We live in a very diverse city and it is important that we respect individuals' cultural despite their sexual preference.

**8. Will you insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?**

Yes, I will insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement. It is important to assure that none of our residents are discriminated against and/or violated because of sexual orientation. Furthermore, as Council-member I want to assure that the leaderships of our city reflects one that understands all cultures in our city and has a thorough understanding of both the civil and human rights of all our residents.

**9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including the chronically underemployed trans population?**

Yes, I would push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations. I would also fight to establish a program to help fund small businesses especially for the chronically underemployed trans population and under-represented population.

**10. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing?**

Yes, I would support improving the services and treatment for the LGBT homeless youth and seniors.

**11. Will you support strengthening Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) reforms by eliminating license protests filed by citizens associations and ad hoc groups, requiring stakeholders to participate in the community process provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission?**

At this point and time I am undecided on this question. I will need more time with the help on my staff to look further into the question.

**12. Will you defend the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it?**

I am undecided about this question, simply because we want to be mindful of the existing community in which we bring adult businesses to. I would have to do a survey on the surrounding area and see if that's what that particular community wants.

**Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.**

With my non-profit organization, Pieces of Me, most of our children are between the ages of 6-12, so it is important that we educate them about sexual orientation. We do not want our participants to be influenced by someone who has not accepted the LGBT community as a part of the District population. Furthermore, along with the assistance of the volunteers who donate their time to the program, we make it a top priority to educate the youth on the important respecting a person's culture regardless if they look like them or not. We try to break it down in way that our children will understand that they can be friends with a person despite their race, religion, or sexual orientation.