

Calvin H. Gurley
Chairman of the Council Election -2014

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)?

I will act to ensure that all D.C. Government employees are provided with full health insurance coverage. Currently, volunteer cosmetic surgery has not been approved by either Federal or District Government health coverage. Only cosmetic surgery due to injury is covered under the current insurance package. I support fair but equal coverage for all D.C. Government employees.

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, if there are disparities among residents (including LGBT) being fairly and equally funded under the budget. **Why are any of the Council members being endorsed by GLAA if there is in fact health disparities in the population of LGBT under the Council's four year term in office?**

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 Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

I have not read the entire list of qualifying conditions that was created by the Council members that GLAA is endorsing. However, Council members are not doctors and should refrain from self-imposing qualifying conditions that they cannot medically justify. This is just another example of the Council (fighting voters' passed initiatives) making it harder for the voter to get satisfaction from "their" law that was passed against the Council's will.

The Council negative, hostile attitude to Voters Passed Laws is found in;

A) The Gun Law. Once this was made law, by court action, the Council put up obstacles that made it difficult if not challenging for a D.C. resident to legally acquire a gun. The Council mandated an 8 month waiting period and the application forms were numerous to fill out – some 21 pages.

B) D.C. Residents can now Vote for their Attorney General. The Council has used taxpayers' funds to fight this voters' passed initiative and prevent it from appearing on the 2014 Primary and General ElectionS.

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.

I cannot rightfully answer the question because I have not research, investigated or conducted a review of HAHSTA. As a Federal Government Auditor with 23 years of experience – if you gave some details or examples I could possibly give a decent response...I cannot rightfully comment in the dark.

Here again, if there are performance issues at the HAHSTA why haven't the Council members responded to the GLAA satisfaction? How long has these performance issues been going on before this election period?

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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, that is my duty and responsibility as the Chairman of the Council. The Home Rule Act mandates that the Council performs oversight duties over all D.C. Government Departments and Agencies.

And since oversight is not being done, then GLAA endorsement for the Chairman need to be rescinded with the Chairman of the Committee that has oversight over the Metro. Police Department.

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?

There is no population in the District that is marginalized in my city as its Chairman of the Council. There must be incarceration for repeat offenders of the law. There are laws on the books that protect youth identity and seal their criminal record. The Council has to budget more funding for homeless youth, families and children. Social Workers will work along with probation officers to obtain the necessary resources for youth and transgender people to complete school, obtain a skill or apprenticeship, attend college or join the armed services.

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?

I believe that the MPD did at one time fund qualified trainers and conducted workshops in LGBT sensitivity training for all police officers. Are you stating that, now, the LGBT sensitivity program and funding for qualified trainers has been defunded by the Council? Why did this happen? Has not the GLAA appealed to the Council to have the funding restored? And, what was the response from the Council?

HUMAN RIGHTS

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, the appointed Director will be required to have Civil Rights Law training and experience.

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?

Currently, the D.C. Government workforce (of 44,000 plus) employees consist of only 30% D.C. residents and the remaining 70% of D.C. workers live in states outside the District of Columbia. First, the trend of not hiring D.C. residents must stop. Second, Human Resource hiring policies will be revamp to offer D.C. residents first option for all new job announcements.

It will be unlawful for the District of Columbia to establish a project to increase hiring of any portion of the population. However, fair and equitable hiring of all D.C. residents will be the first item on my to-do-list. The Office of Administrative Hearings will be instructed to be on the lookout for any discrimination in hiring based upon sex, gender and preference.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

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

Yes. However, why is the current council and mayor allowing for LGBT homeless youth and Seniors to experience sub-standard services and treatment?

2 CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

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?

I don't understand by eliminating license protest requiring stakeholders to participate will strengthen ABC reforms. Many ANC Commissioners representing their SMD support and will submit protest of an ABC license for a store owner selling liquor to under age people or narcotics to patrons.

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?

* Will you defend the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for Themselves – **YES, equal to what is currently “legally” approved in all sex oriented businesses for entertainment.**

* the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it?

Come on...you know the meaning of this. The business is licensed to the current laws on the books to do business; even prostitution has to be licensed under any state's law. You know any change or new choice of adult entertainment has to be reviewed, approved and licensed. Any business has the right to choose for themselves [adult-oriented entertainment] but that doesn't mean their choice is legal under law.

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.

I personally attended D.C. Council hearings in support of Gay Marriage in the District. I stood with Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. and supported his decision to support Gay Marriage in the District when his Ward (5) community and their church leaders personally opposed him (Thomas). Harry Thomas, Jr. is a Fraternity Brother who I supported on the issue and fight for Gay Marriage in the District of Columbia.

Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Thursday, February 6 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013.

In addition to sending your signed hard copy, please email a copy (in any major word processor or text format) for loading on GLAA's website (www.glaa.org) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.