

Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance of Washington D.C.

2010 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

Fall Elections 2010

Marriage and Family:

- 1) Yes, I have worked extensively for Marriage Equality in Ohio, Arizona, Maryland and in D.C., and would not support any initiative to take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples. I would also publicly campaign for marriage equality in the event of such an initiative.

My extensive work around Marriage Equality began in Ohio with my work as a fundraiser for Equality Ohio. In this volunteer capacity, I worked to raise money to defeat "Issue 1" that would re-write the state constitution to limit marriage to "one-man and one-woman". I was responsible for organizing a grassroots effort in Southwestern Ohio that would mount a huge get out the vote message, as well as raise over \$1.5 million to support our campaign. In the end, Issue 1 was passed by the Ohio voters on November 2nd 2004.

In 2008, as the Director of Development for Equality Arizona, my primary role was to work with the Arizona State Legislature to prevent the passage of a bill that would send the gay-marriage bill to the Arizona voters. In a Sine Di session, the Arizona State Senate voted to send the measure (that was successfully defeated by the votes in 2006) back to the voters in the form of a ballot measure to re-write the Arizona Constitution to define marriage as a union "between one-man and one-woman." After a weeklong strategy session with leaders in the LGBT community in Arizona, we reorganized "Arizona Together" to work on defeating this ballot measure again. My role in this effort, the "NO ON 102" campaign, was to generate the needed capital to organize and run a successful campaign. In 2006, Arizona Together raised over \$2.5 million to defeat a ballot measure. In 2008, we raised just under \$2.3 million, and unfortunately lost this campaign. We were out raised by the Mormon Church almost 2 to 1. For over 6 months, I worked to coordinate volunteer's state wide to build capacity in their communities, held fundraising events around the state, and coordinated a grass-roots effort.

- 2) Yes, as a supporter of marriage equality in the District of Columbia, I would work tirelessly for the immediate re-passage.

In my opinion, marriage equality has gained a lot of support from the community. The number of gay-affirming D.C. Clergy, to the number of pro-LGBT and civil liberty advocates that have

stepped up to support the measure have had tremendous support for the community. As a member of the D.C. Council, I will work with these groups, as well as Members of Congress, to protect marriage equality in the District of Columbia.

- 3) I believe that all people should have the same rights and benefits from their employers, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identification. Access to services such as health care should not be qualified by marriage status or sexual orientation, but should be available for all who care to purchase it. To this extent, I agree that private contractors doing business in the District of Columbia should be required to provide equal benefits for same-sex partners. In addition, I support the Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Amendment Act of 2009 that provides protection for the children of domestic partners.

- 4) I would oppose the Conscience clause and business necessity exemption as proposed (and defeated) by Councilmember Alexander. I am sensitive to the tone and nature of religious beliefs around same-sex marriage, but support the fact that the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment protect everyone. I can respect the opinions of religious organizations when it comes to LGBT issues, but I will never support a measure that tries to removed or infringe upon the civil rights and liberties of anyone.

Public Health

- 5) Yes, I do support sufficient funding to make HIV testing routine among District residents includes counseling and treatment referrals for those testing positive.

D.C. has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the country, and in order to combat that, we need increased awareness (marketing, promotion, and advertising) around HIV prevention, especially in communities of color. The only way to get to a reduction of HIV/AIDS rates is increased funding for MSM programs, and outreach programs in communities of color and identified communities with the highest incidents of HIV/AIDS. As a member of D.C. Council, I would support increased funding for HIV testing projects. I would also work with the non-profit community to help them identify and secure private funding (foundation, corporate and individual) to help them provide more prevention services, and for programs for people living with HIV/AIDS (i.e. housing, counseling and treatment).

For over three years, I was the Vice President of Development for the Minority AIDS Network, a non-profit organization that worked primarily with low-income, at risk, communities of color on HIV testing, counseling, and prevention. My role was to generate capacity funding to offset the

amount of money that was lost when Congress failed to re-authorize Ryan White (title 1 and title 2 funding). The Minority AIDS Network was able to generate adequate funding from foundation and corporate donors to provide increased services for a growing population without the federal funding. In my career, I've worked with various HIV/AIDS organizations, including the National Minority AIDS Council, Cleveland AIDS Bank and the Children with AIDS Project. In my work, I have always believed that effective HIV prevention programs must be based on an understanding of at-risk behaviors and problems in access to care.

- 6) Yes, I am in favor of continuing and expanding the condom distribution program. Safe-sex practices, including the use of condoms, are the more effective ways to prevent the transmission of HIV. However, condom distribution must be targeted to the greater community at large (including communities of color, low-income and elderly) to be an effective program. I will, as a D.C. Councilmember, look into strategies that ensure the condoms are actually being distributed, and not just sitting in boxes.

- 7) I would support legislation giving the directors of the Office of LGBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs to issue competitive grants. As a member of D.C. Council, I would draft legislation giving the directors of these two offices grant-making authority for organizations serving the populations within their purview. I would also, work with both of these organizations to help them seek other funding (foundation, federal, etc) that will allow them to build their capacity as a grant making organization.

- 8) I would support the recommendations made by the D.C. Appleseed Center in its 2005 report. I think we need a stronger, more targeted citywide HIV testing campaign, a citywide condom distribution program that reaches at risk neighborhoods. I have, and always will support HIV Education in our public schools. The steps I would support to improve performance at HAHSTA are increased monitoring and oversight to ensure these vital projects are being executed, examine the data released by HAHSTA to make sure it's relevant and accurate before it is distributed to the public, and work with the Health Committee to make recommendations for the agencies success.

- 9) In order to continue the noticeable gains achieved by Metropolitan Police Department and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, I feel they must continue the community diversity and sensitivity training for all members/staff. I would support funding for mandatory LGBT sensitivity and diversity training. I also support the presence of qualified LGBT trainers, and severe consequences for misbehavior- that is supported and upheld by MPD, the D.C. Council, and the Mayor.

10) I would support a budget for the Office of Police Complaints. I personally feel that since this office was created in 2001, it has employed strong practices for citizen oversight with the objective of improving public confidence in the police department. I support the organizations leadership in conducting community outreach activities, issuing reports and recommendations, and in the advocacy work around integrity and fairness for all. In order for the Office to be more effective, they will have to have a budget that will prevent the Office from developing a backlog of cases.

Public Safety and the Judiciary:

11) I am in complete support of GLAA's position that freedom for all is threatened when those of a few are infringed. I support better policing, starting with officers getting out of their cars and getting to know the residents in troubled neighborhoods – this is the best in an offensive strategy in fighting crime. I would support efforts to rein in police officials who seek to infringe on the constitutionally protected civil liberties of District residents.

I will not support any initiative, like the Neighborhood Safety Zone (NSZ) that seeks to disregard the constitutional rights of residents, especially in a publicity stunt that does not address the real problems.

12) I support, 100% the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, and will support citywide scope and a dedicated and well-trained core unit with a full-time sergeant. Over the years, I've become very close with members of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, and see their hard work first hand in protecting citizens in LGBT neighborhoods (especially around night clubs and bars). Their focus is on reducing all types of crimes and illegal activities, with a strong focus on hate-crimes and violence to others.

I believe this unit is a great asset to our community. In so much, that they are part of the LGBT community, understand the needs and concerns of residents, and deter targeted hate crimes. I would fear that if this unit were not in existence, we would see an increased amount of crime and violence in against our LGBT residents.

13) I would support increased oversight of MPD's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure we have relevant, inclusive data around hate crimes. I also support efforts to end discrimination against transgendered detainees and inmates in our correctional facilities.

14) I support making the D.C. Attorney General an elected position. I agree that this position needs to represent the public's interest and not any particular branch of government. I also think an independent AG will be more accountable to District residents.

Human Rights:

15) I support a budget for the Office of Human Rights. In order for this office to be effective, and to properly handle the backlog of cases, it will need adequate funding and staffing. By not approving a budget for this office, we allow the office to not be able to represent the residents it was created to protect and service. In addition to supporting a budget for this office, I would also work with this office to identify outside funding (i.e. foundation, federal, etc.) to support special projects and services that the Office does not have the funding or capacity to launch.

16) I will not support recognizing someone or an organization with a proclamation, resolution or honor who is openly hostile to the LGBT community. As a member of D.C. Council, and advocate for LGBT rights, I will always work to denounce bigotry for our recognition process.

I also support conducting due-diligence in these areas to ensure those being considered for honors or awards are worthy by equality standards.

17) I have now, and forever support our Transgender community. I have noticed that discrimination among transgender people is becoming more increasing, and there appears to be a lack of resolutions to these problems. I believe we need strong and sound programs that focus on bullying, violence, unemployment and fair housing for transgender citizens.

I am supportive and committed to including transgender representative on the D.C. Commission on Human Rights. This position will allow great access to the transgender community to address areas of discrimination around employment, housing and access to needed city services.

18) I agree that the Director of the Office of Human Rights should be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement. A professional background in civil rights law will better equip the Director of the Office of Human Rights with the expertise to verify the correctness of staff work and the confidence to stand up to other government officials.

Public Education and Youth

19) I am against vouchers for religiously oriented private schools. I agree with the GLAA position that the federal funds in the voucher program may end up in the hands of religiously-affiliated schools where gay and lesbian students and teachers are not protected from discrimination.

I'm in support of city-wide school reform that holds our students and teachers accountable to taxpayers, not in funding discrimination in our education system.

20) I support 100% improved services and treatment for gay and transgender homeless youth. I support the work of such great agencies in the District of Columbia such as SMYAL, Covenant House, the Latin American Youth Center and the Wanda Alston House. I feel these organizations are providing a valuable service to a unique and underserved community, and need all the help for D.C. Government as possible. I would support seeking outside funding to help support some of the programs and services of these organizations, including support from the city, to help address risks for substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and suicide.

21) I do not support using taxpayer dollars for "abstinence only" education. Having worked in a variety of communities, I believe abstinence only education is not a viable option to certain groups. I'm not anti-abstinence education; however, it should be promoted as an option, just as, safe-sex practices, and sexual health. I will support methods to allow teachers the opportunity to teach realistic health education, that is inclusive, but with a strong measure for compliance.

Consumer and Business:

22) I support the right of adult-oriented entertainment in the District, as long as it operates within the boundaries of the law. I agree with the GLAA's position, that those who disapprove of these establishments should not visit them.

23) I will support legislation to curb abuses against gay-welcoming business. I do not support unreasonable hostility toward urban nightlife by people who seek to destroy our small businesses. I support regulatory reform to prevent abuse to the system by a small number of people to prevent legitimate businesses from operating.

24) I would not support legalized prostitution. However, I would support a progressive policy to regulate it and assist with the risk factors involved by providing alternative in terms of housing, employment, workforce training and counseling.

More Info (and resume attached)

http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily_News/2010/08/GOP_Candidate_to_Throw_Drag_Queen_Fundraiser/

<http://www.ntouchaz.com/-content/archive/2008/NTOJul08.pdf>

<http://www.pinkweddings.us/equalityaz.htm>

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Non-Profit and Political Fund-raising Professional

Corporate and Foundation Giving; Capital Campaigns; Major Gifts; Board Development; Strategic Planning; Individual Giving; Inspiring Philanthropy; Stewardship; Planned Giving

Accomplished and seasoned senior development professional and fund-raising strategist, with a proven and documented record of identifying and securing new sources of philanthropic support and building diverse streams of funding. Motivated by internal standards of excellence to overachieve expectations and exceed all set goals. Highly successful in building individual and corporate giving programs, organizing and completing endowment and capital campaigns and in building new, long-term relationships with current and prospective individual donors.

Professional Experience

Carbon War Room, Washington D.C. (Present)

Title: Deputy Director-Development

Duties:

- Solicit and secure funding from high net worth individuals for initiatives around Climate Change Solution (secured over \$9 million from individuals)
- Solicit and secure funding from major corporations and foundations for specific "battle" areas (secured over \$11 million from corporate and foundation partners)
- Build and maintain relationships with donors, NGO partners, consultants and prospective founders
- Coordinate and organize all special events

Equality Arizona, Phoenix, AZ. March 2008 to Jan. 2009

Title: Development Director

Duties:

- Developed, maintained and drove the organizations development strategy (focus on corporate and foundation giving, individual giving, annual fund and planned gifts)
- Served as the agencies chief lobbyists, in charge of local and national legislative affairs and policy direction
- Developed major gift strategy resulting in an 38% increase in major donors
- Developed corporate package and corporate fund-raising strategy
- Expanded individual giving program resulting in more than 200 new sustaining donors and improved return on lapsed donors
- Organized annual awards dinner (net of over \$500,000) and other fund-raising events

National Minority AIDS Council, Washington, D.C. June 2005 to April 2008

Title: Vice President /Development

Duties:

- Organized private phase of \$5 million dollar capital campaign and secured top five lead gifts of \$100,000 or more
- Implemented direct mail campaigns, public relation campaigns, and media relations which increased the agencies branding and messaging by 29% (Wright Poll Survey 2007)
- Secured over \$3.5 million in corporate, foundation and federal funding
- Increased fund-raising revenue by 55% (secured over \$478,900 in new gifts between 6/05 and 6/06)
- Provided program evaluation and monitoring of Development Program, to be consistent with mission and strategic goals
- Worked with local/state governments and the federal government on HIV/AIDS legislation and policy
- Served agency spokesperson

Maryland Environmental Service, Annapolis, MD Nov. 2003 to May 2005

Title: Grants Manager

Duties:

- Developed and implemented strategy to secured state, federal, corporate, foundation, and private funds to support the programs and efforts of Maryland Environmental Service
- Worked with Maryland State Legislature on policy reform and legislation to address the environmental concerns in Maryland Municipalities
- Secured funding to assist Maryland Municipalities with their environmental funding needs
- Developed a strategic plan for diverse funding and continued support for Maryland Municipalities and other state agencies
- Solicited major gifts for programs and operating capital

The Maryland Republican Party, Annapolis, MD Feb. 2001 to Nov. 2003

Title: Finance Director

Duties:

- Secured \$2 million to support the operations of the Maryland Republican Party
- Organized all major donor activities, including building the Party's "Trustee Circle" (a major donor campaign)
- Organized and monitored all direct mail and telemarketing effort with a net return in 2003 of 31%
- Organized all Party fund-raisers and special events, including the *Annual Red, White and Blue Dinner*
- Supervised finance department staff

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, Ohio. July 1996 to Feb. 2001

Title: Director of Development

Duties:

- Designed and implemented development and capital campaign strategy, as well as, development strategy for organization.
- Designed and implemented feasibility studies and board trainings
- Secured major gifts for capital campaigns and annual fund programs
- Provided leadership in planned giving programs, direct marketing and major gifts solicitation

Political Fund-raising Campaigns

- "NO on Prop 102" (Ballot Measure-2008)
- Laura Knapereck(AZ) for Congress (2008)
- Michael Steele (MD) for US Senate (2006)
- Robert Ehrlich (MD) for Governor (2002/2006)
- John Boehner (OH) for Congress (1998/2000)

Education

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

B.A. Political Science

Public Administration/Policy Analysis

Professional Memberships:

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc
- Lion's Club
- Association of Fund-raising Professionals (AFP)
- Registered Lobbyist
- Registered Fund-Raising Consultant

Additional Information:

Expert experience with IBM systems and most Windows based programs including *MS Word, Power Point, Excel, Access and Front Page, MS Publisher and Page Maker*. Strong knowledge of *Raiser's Edge, SAGE and Donor Perfect* donor management software, *E-Civics Grant Locater*, and *The Foundation Center*. Successfully completed courses at the *Center of Philanthropy at Indiana University*, and through the *Planned Giving Council of America*. An active member with the *Association of Fund raising Professionals (AFP)*.