

## **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

1. In the event of congressional action leading to a ballot initiative in the District that would take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples, will you oppose the initiative and will you publicly defend civil marriage equality?

Yes, I would oppose such an initiative and make my stance public. We must never take steps backward in this fight for equality. We are on the right side of history and we must maintain our course.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

2. Will you support legislation giving the directors of the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants as other minority constituent offices have, that will be open to organizations serving the populations within the offices' purview?

Yes, I would support that legislation. I believe that it is important that we give those directors all the tools they need in order to be successful.

3. Will you defend the District's hard-won and life-saving medical marijuana program against attacks or further restrictions, whether from Congress, federal officials, D.C. officials, or residents?

Yes, I would defend DC's medical marijuana program from outside influence and local interference. I do however believe that we must always listen to residents' concerns and take them into account when dealing with locations for dispensaries and cultivation centers.

4. Describe steps you will support 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 have worked to help prevent HIV/AIDS since I was a teen as a part of TASA (Teens Against the Spread of AIDS). I have seen first-hand how HIV/AIDS can affect a family and I know that we can do better to make this disease a thing of the past. I will increase funding for HIV/AIDS-prevention nonprofits and invite leading experts to come and do a thorough review of our prevention, surveillance

and mental health services. I will push for innovation and understanding so that we can one day say we have won the war against HIV/AIDS.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY**

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?

I would do more than press—I would demand that MPD execute their duties without prejudice. I would hope that they would use extra care and attention when dealing with crimes as serious as hate crimes.

6. Will you support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence?

Proposing legislation of this sort would be among my top priorities. I believe that a unit is only as effective as the training it has received. We must institute rigorous and professionally facilitated cultural competency training for ALL levels of MPD.

7. Will you oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called Prostitution-Free Zones (PFZs), which facilitate anti-transgender profiling, and will you vote to repeal the current PFZ law?

Yes I would. I believe that these zones are a thinly veiled attempt to infringe on transgender residents' rights to express themselves. I would vote to repeal these laws because not only are they ineffective but they also give the impression that there are zones in this city where prostitution is allowed. Our whole city should be free of prostitution, not just a few designated zones.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

8. Do you agree that the Director of the Office of Human Rights should be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

Yes I do. I think that the fact this is even a question speaks a lot to that office's commitment to human and civil rights. We must ensure that the Directors of such

organizations are well versed in all of the intricacies and prepared to make the tough calls amid social and political pressure.

## **YOUTH AND SENIORS**

9. Will you oppose both federal and local voucher programs that fund students in religious schools that are beyond the protections of the D.C. Human Rights Act?

Yes I will. The reason is simple. Tax dollars should not be used to fund religious activities and certainly should not be used on activities that are beyond the protection of the DC Human Rights Act.

10. Will you oppose the use of either federal or District taxpayer funds to promote "abstinence only until marriage" sex education that undermines safer-sex programs by excluding more comprehensive information?

I have worked in reproductive health for more than 18 years and if there is one thing that has been proven again and again, it is that "abstinence only until marriage" sex education DOES NOT WORK. In fact it has been proven that teens who have taken so-called "abstinence pledges" are more likely to become pregnant or contract an STD because they do not know how to properly use contraception. We need evidence based sex education for students, as well as training for teachers and parents so that we can make sure that pregnancy and disease are not a part of our children's teenage years.

11. Will you support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners, including providing local funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act?

Yes I would. We must treat all humans equally across the board. Period.

## **CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES**

12. Do you support 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, without excluding any ward?

Yes I do, within reason. One of the things that makes America great is the fact that people can pursue happiness in almost any way that pleases them as long as it does

not infringe on anyone else's rights. These businesses and their patrons deserve equal protection under the law.

13. Will you support legislation to curb abuses involving endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants?

Provided that the claims are indeed baseless I would certainly support legislation that would prevent such abuses.

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

I know that the first step is to look at these vulnerable Washingtonians as humans and not as labels or statistics. Once we truly do that it will be easy to reallocate the funds and resources necessary to properly address this issue. The issue as I see it is that our current representation places homeless youth and transgender residents pretty low on the totem pole when compared to corporations and lobbyists. We need to shift our focus on to the well-being of DC residents, not rich out of town corporations.

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

Over the years, I have worked closely with and on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, especially youth. As a teen I was a member of TASA (Teens Against the Spread of AIDS), and I later hosted and produced BET's Award winning Teen talk show, *Teen Summit*. In my current role as Policy Director with DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, I work to ensure that ALL DC teens receive the education and support necessary to make healthy, informed decisions about their reproductive health and well-being.