



February 14, 2012

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
P.O. Box 75265
Washington, DC 20013

It is my pleasure to respond to your 2012 candidates' questionnaire. I have always enjoyed working with GLAA and together we have made a tremendous difference in the lives of LGBT residents of the District of Columbia.

I have been proud to champion many issues of concern to the LGBT community. I have always included LGBT staff on both my Council and campaign staffs. My record of service highlights my support for the community and I often address LGBT issues in my literature. In short, my 2012 campaign is as inclusive as it has been in the past.

Among the issues I have championed:

- Equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples;
- Reform of the District's sodomy laws;
- Creation and expansion of the domestic partnership program;
- HIV/AIDS -- condom availability, clean needle exchange, better funding and oversight, including audits, of the HIV/AIDS programs, confidentiality protections;
- Public Safety – creation of Gay and Lesbian liaison unit, sensitivity training, reestablishment of the Office of Police Complaints, continuous other efforts with MPD and FEMS, and updating the criminal code;
- Human Rights – expansion of Human Rights Act to include gender expression and identity, funding for OHR activities and caseload; and
- Honoring the LGBT Community – participation in community activities, celebrations, fundraisers, and the Pride Parade.

I have truly been grateful to have GLAA as my partner in advancing the LGBT agenda. Thank you for your consideration of my responses, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about my record or my campaign.

Sincerely,

Jack Evans



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?

I will actively oppose any effort by Congress to preempt the District's rights in this realm and actively campaign against any ballot initiative or referendum in the District which seeks to prohibit equal marriage rights. I am very proud to have been the first elected official in the District to come out in favor of equal marriage rights for same sex partners. I will continue to support and assist all efforts to defend against hostile notions regarding equal marriage.

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 will support legislation giving directors the authority to issue competitive grants to organizations serving the population. The administrators of the Office of GLBT Affairs and Office of African Affairs are in the best position possible to know and understand the effectiveness and mission of organizations serving the community under each agency's purview.

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 or D.C. officials?

Yes. The process of instituting medical marijuana in the city is being thoughtfully planned and I agree that the Department of Health should be the lead agency in its regulation. I agree that a medical marijuana community advisory board should be appointed as required by law. The Council should continue to review the current proposed structure of the medical marijuana industry in the District to ensure the best practices are being applied.

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 will support changes such as those proposed by DC Appleseed. I also support the funding of LGBT health initiatives to properly address the unique needs of the community; including funding for mental health and substance abuse programs. I



support the work of my colleague, David Catania in expanding health care coverage to the uninsured. I think that the elderly and other overlooked populations should be targeted for education and prevention of HIV as well as other STDs. The elderly are particularly at-risk and programs should be put in place to handle the entire city's population. I strongly support clean needle exchange programs and have a record of championing harm reduction programs such as this. I worked hard to help initiate the District's condom distribution program and keep an eye on the progress in our schools.

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. Data collection is an essential tool in understanding criminal trends and ultimately adapting to the specific needs of communities in the city. I encourage the proper training of MPD officers in understanding the nuances between the many communities in the District. I strongly support the work of the SLU. I also encourage utilizing SLU officers in the training of recruits.

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?

Yes. I have always supported such training and if we need to move in the direction of a specific line item in the city budget, then I will see to it. I will continue to support the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit through the Committee on the Judiciary. I have continued the open lines of communication with Chief Lanier on the status of the Special Liaison Units as a whole and look forward to fine-tuning the current programs to the needs of our individual communities. I will also continue to focus on the specific needs of the transgendered community and improving relations with 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 will oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called Prostitution Free Zones. While the issue of prostitution is of great concern to many residents of Ward 2, I agree with the testimony of Rick Rosendall that the bill currently before the Council presents constitutional concerns. I will follow his lead and that of GLAA on this issue.

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. In order to effectively lead such an important office, the Director should have a solid understanding of the practical and legal implications of the office's actions.

Requiring professional training is a good idea, so long as it doesn't prohibit a talented non-traditional candidate from holding the position. Conceivably, a law professor or other such person who hasn't specifically been in an enforcement position could be an effective Director too.

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 oppose both federal and local voucher programs that fund students in religious schools that are beyond the protections of the District's 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?

Yes. I will continue to support the use of safe-sex education programs that also include the abstinence only message as part of the training as whole. Abstinence only education is not appropriate for all populations. I have met with and support Metro TeenAIDS and am impressed by their outreach and prevention efforts. There is no substitute for sexual health education that is thorough, frank and age appropriate. This education must also provide scientifically accurate information regarding safer-sex practices, harm reduction strategies and human sexuality.

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 support this legislation as long as it is crafted to ensure the continuation of federal Medicaid funds. Extending Medicaid to same-sex partners provides full faith and credit in the District's marriage equality law. I believe all married couples should be allowed to express all the rights inherent in marriage. I believe we should do whatever is necessary to clarify our recognitions of such marriages and partnerships.

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've always believed consenting adults are capable of deciding what is best and appropriate for themselves.



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

Yes. I believe the ABC regulatory process has improved tremendously in the past decade. However, a common complaint from residents and businesses is the great length of time the ABC Board takes to make decisions. The process still needs to be refined to ensure both sides' rights are protected. New areas of conflict resolution could be considered with regard to ABC licenses.

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 think a combination of many different factors is necessary. From an education standpoint, sex orientation education as a part of sex education is important. From a safety standpoint, training and resources are necessary not only for the GLLU but for the wider force as well. From a social services standpoint, we need training to ensure awareness and sensitivity by social services providers in the District. And from an employment perspective, inclusion in the DC Human Rights Act is necessary.

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.

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