

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?

I will not oppose or support legislation to defend or abolish the civil rights marriage act. I believe that the residents of Washington DC deserve to vote on this matter – it is too important to trust that all DC Council representatives are truly representing the voices of their constituents. If deemed necessary, I will work to get the issue on the ballot for DC residents to vote on.

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?

All offices that issue competitive grants should be subject to greater regulation to ensure that all organizations are using the funds to benefit the intended recipients. Additionally, if the organization is new to working with the DC government office, RFP's should be carefully reviewed to ensure that the organization has the experience needed to best utilize the funds. If those criteria are met, I do believe that the aforementioned offices should be given provisional authority to issue competitive grants with an annual/semi-annual review period by the entire DC Council to ensure compliance.

- 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?

I need to do more research on the program and work to understand the concerns of constituents on both sides of the issue before making a decision on what stance to take.

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

I would create a task force responsible for doing research on what would happen if mandatory annual reports were tied to budgetary funding as a way to ensure that accurate reports are received on a yearly basis.

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?

Yes, proper statistical categories need to be available to properly identify and track the various types of crime that occur throughout Washington DC.

on behalf of EGAA

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EGAA

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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?

on behalf of EGAAH

First, I will work to ensure that officers assigned to the GLLU have the proper cultural competency training that includes same sex intimate partner violence. I want to work with the laws and systems that are currently in place- if those are deemed irreparable, then other options can be pursued.

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?

on behalf of

EGAAH

I pledge to ensure that all legislation does not violate constitutional law. It would be necessary to review police reports to determine if profiling of transgender persons has occurred at a substantially higher rate in the PFZs. Without reviewing that information, I am unable to say that I would or would not repeal the PFZs.

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?

on behalf of

EGAAH

ABSOLUTELY! If the director's education does not show that he/she has the education or work experience in civil rights law enforcement, he/she should receive mandatory training. Additionally, the DC Council should consider the education and work experience of the perspective director to ensure that the qualifications are met to ensure effective leadership for OHR.

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?

on behalf of

EGAAH

I will work to properly interpret the United States Constitution. With DC's low ranking among the public school systems in the nation, the foremost issue with the education system is getting one that works to educate all students. That being said, parents bear the burden of researching the beliefs and principles of the religions studied at schools that offer vouchers and bear the responsibility of deciding if the beliefs are in line with what is taught in the home. Until the DC Public School System can offer all parents of schoolchildren with a viable choice for education that leads to training and/or higher education that will allow students to become gainfully employed, all education options need to be available.

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?

No, I will not oppose the use of federal or District taxpayer funds to promote "abstinence only until marriage" sex education. I believe that there should be tolerance for both points of view. Sex education should provide a wealth of options to students that encompass the entire spectrum for having or abstaining from sex. The conversation is not complete if both sides of the spectrum are not discussed.

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?

As long as same-sex marriage is legal in Washington DC, same sex couples should be afforded the same protections given to heterosexual married couples. I will work to ensure equality among marriage laws.

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?

As long as all District laws are being obeyed, adult-oriented entertainment should not be disallowed from any ward. It is imperative that patrons of adult-oriented businesses are not participating in illegal activities.

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

I will review the current laws and ensure that no business or population is subject to undue scrutiny or harassment.

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?

on behalf of
E-ATX

The only alternative is tolerance that allows marginalized and at-risk populations to graduate from high school and have options for higher education. I will create a task force that studies the effects of having the OSSE to implement policies that mandate teachers and officials to have training in working with LGBT youth. At no time is breaking the law the only alternative for residents of Washington DC and I believe that working to provide leniency on the law will have the opposite effect of providing a safe haven for the at-risk and actually increase the number of people breaking the law.