

**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
2012 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates**

2-2012

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, I believe that if this occurs, until the initiative is voted on the law should stay in place. I believe when a law applies to a specific group that the voices of that group should be heard first and far most. I would oppose it because it is in place and it is not adversely affecting anyone. One's belief and what is reality are two different things.

PUBLIC HEALTH

2. Yes, I would 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 because I am for equity for all.

3. Yes, I would 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 because this law being in affect benefits several illnesses and it should not be considered beneficial to anyone group, but to all persons/groups who can benefit by the drug. The benefits from the use of prescribed marijuana should be viewed as any other medication. Dispensaries should be equally established throughout the city for convenience for those who it would be prescribed to.

4. 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 continued funding of targeted substance abuse treatment, moreover, I will support funding for preventative measures, which includes ads, brochures and commercials to educate the public. Additionally, funding for the condom distribution would continue. Thus far, in Ward 8, the locations for free condoms have been plentiful. A must is to increase funding and awareness for HIV testing.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY

5. I will 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. There is nothing more I can really add to this except demand that the police take the time to dissect its records to be accurate. I will introduce legislation that if a person is found guilty of a hate crime, they will be sentenced to time and a half.

6. Yes, I will support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence. This shall include sensitivity training. I have a domestic violence organization, Ward Eight Council Against Domestic Violence, which focus on all domestic violence, siblings, couples, parents and children, partners, etc. I have been successful in mediating bullying of gay and lesbian student and neighbors.

7. I will oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called Prostitution-Free Zones (PFZs), however, the PFZs will not only possibly facilitate anti-transgender profiling, and it would profile anyone who prostitutes. I will vote to repeal the current PFZ law because the zone is not the real issue. The real issue is safety and health. Prostitution is illegal, therefore, to say there is a PFZ would be encouraging illegal activity, thereby, would be prone to profiling. The only law that would aid in such activity would be to legalize prostitution with laws to regulate it to assure safety and health.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Yes, 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. Nothing else needs to be said about it because this speaks for itself. Civil rights, Constitutional Rights and human rights should be added to this equation.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

9. Yes, I will 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. When parents are desperate to educating their child, they overlook the Human Rights aspect of the school, thereby, the legislators need to step in and legislate humane conditions.

10. I would not oppose the use of either federal or District taxpayer funds to promote "abstinence only until marriage" sex education because with the appropriate language it would not undermine safer-sex programs with more comprehensive information. The amendment would include, for example, "Making Sense of Abstinence" and "Making Smart Choices About Sex".

11. All Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) cases filed in court have not been settled - One case in particular is the case filed by Karen Golinski (Golinski v. Office of Personnel Management[CA]) that is currently in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and has not had a final decision; however, I would support the 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 DOMA as long as it does not affect Federal Financial participation (FFP). Alternatively, Congress could amend its law to add "civil union" along with marriage to afford same sex couples/partners access to all states created rights and obligations of civil marriages.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

12. I could 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, however, I would have to review the zoning laws particularly in Ward 8 before definitively answering.

13. Yes, this goes without saying that I would support legislation to ~~en~~ stop abuses involving endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants. I would have to include all businesses that have to renew their licenses.

14. Alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to prostitution for survival would be all the recommendations in your

Agenda 2012, plus, I would introduce legislation similar to traffic school, whereas, the prostitute can attend in person "Prostitution School" for the first offense; the second offense, the court will use a state/federal grant to pay for a probation officer and a licensed counselor to give services. Additionally, the grant would pay for transportation for the offender. Two of the objectives of the counseling would include helping them get jobs and re-establish family relationships.

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.

I have mediated bullying of LGBT youth: I have served as the second vice president of the Ward Eight Democrats under the presidency of Philip Pannell and along side Brad Lewis. I have a great relationship with Michael Sainte-Andress, who called me from his sick bed and inspired me to take the time to respond to this questionnaire.

A family friend from childhood contracted AIDS. His family was not as supportive as they should have been. Once I found out, I assisted him in every way I could. I took him to his doctor's appointments, helped him with his meals and helped him to get around when he was too weak to walk and was having a problems breathing due to pneumonia. He ultimately succumbed to AIDS. At the funeral, his family could not thank me enough for helping him.

I have participated in issues and protests led by Wayne Turner. I walked in the funeral procession of his partner, Steve Michael, whereas, we ended up in front of the White House.

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Wednesday, February 15 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.