

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2012 Questionnaire for Ward 5 D.C. Council Candidates

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 will publicly defend civil marriage equality as District law. While I do support the constitutional rights of individuals, my strong religious convictions have persuaded me of the sanctity of the religious institution of marriage, but I have no intention of repealing the law that has already passed in the District. Moreover, as an attorney, I fully support the rights of individual freedom of choice and the full benefits of civil unions.

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 the legislation.

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 will defend "life-saving" medical marijuana faculties in the District; I just don't want the majority of them in one ward, Ward 5. They should be evenly distributed around the District in all eight wards.

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 would be a strong advocate to fight for aggressive education programs, preventative measures, and full funding for all HIV/AIDS Health programs under the DC Department of Health to ensure that ALL persons of need are served and that no one is denied vital healthcare.

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. I would ensure that the records of statistics about all hate related crimes and particularly those affecting the transgender community are transparent and available.

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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?

Yes, I would. This is an important measure to make sure that all our citizens are fully protected and no one's rights are violated. We owe all our citizens the full protection under the law. Domestic violence in any home must not be tolerated at all.

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, of course I am against profiling on any circumstances. We must all that we can to protect the rights of our gay and transgender community.

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, it is extremely important that this executive appointment should be dedicated, committed and highly competent in all civil rights concerns.

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?

I oppose the federal and local school voucher programs for several reasons.

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?

While "abstinence only until marriage" may seem ideal and healthy, I do not believe it is realistic as a tool in and of itself and therefore I encourage all programs that provide extensive comprehensive safer sex information for the sexual health of everyone.

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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?

I will support all legislation that ensures equal protection of all persons including the gay, lesbian and transgender community

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?

I support the current moratorium on strip clubs and nude dancing in Ward 5. However, whatever adult-oriented entertainment adults choose to view in the privacy of their homes is not the business of the City under our Constitution.

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

Yes, of course, again as an attorney, I will not support any form of harassment, abuse or extortion of any kind directed toward any community in the District.

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 will aggressively support efforts to ensure that the Office of Children and Family Services have proper sensitivity to our gay and transgender youth.

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.

As a former Assistant Attorney General, I provided counsel to all District residents regardless of gender, race, class, culture or sexual orientation.

As a six-term member of the DC Democratic Party, I have always fought for the rights of all citizens, to be free from bigotry and bias, including our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender population.

As a former President of the NAACP Youth Council for many years, I was trained and raised to believe in the Constitutional rights of all Americans. As an African-American, I have witnessed racism, persecution, bias and bigotry. I understand the plight and the fight for equal justice under the law. It is the very reason I decided to become an attorney when I was 12 years old.

Electronically Signed:

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Ron Magnus

Ron L. Magnus, Esq.
Candidate for Ward 5 City Council

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Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. *You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.*

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Wednesday, March 28 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.

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