

GLAA QUESTIONNAIRE
DARREL THOMPSON CANDIDATE FOR WARD 6

1. Will you act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. Government employees, to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery)?

Absolutely. I will work with local LGBT groups to build a solid understanding of health insurance that would be most helpful to meet the needs of transgender residents.

2. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment?

Yes, I believe very strongly in the importance of closing the gap between health disparities and will do everything I can to make sure they are diminished. Many factors – such as gender, disability status, race and ethnicity, where you live, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation – have an impact on healthcare and life opportunities. Ensuring that funding appropriately meets the needs of these populations is vitally important. Our LGBT communities deserve the best access to coverage possible, and I'd work aggressively to make sure we are also fairly providing coverage to support mental health needs and treat substance abuse.

3. Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

Yes.

4. Describe steps you will take 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'd like to see HAHSTA become a visible presence at events promoting awareness and prevention, with a mobile unit available to bring the information to the people. Additionally, it is important to form new partnerships and relationships in order to ensure that the people who need services are receiving the appropriate outreach. Lastly, identifying highly trained, culturally sensitive staff members is vital to increasing performance.

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 believe we should work closely with the Police Department to improve the methods for gathering and analyzing crime statistics. All District residents, including members of the LGBT community, should expect a police department that works vigorously and fairly to keep them safe and investigate crimes fairly. For example,

anyone who is assaulted who is transgender should be given the option to have their case managed by the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLUU).

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

We need to ensure that there are resources in the community for alternatives to incarceration. When possible, a comprehensive community-approach including adequate support, such as mentors and support groups, mental health resources and counselors, and job and educational training should all be considered prior to incarceration. We need to educate the wider community, including law enforcement and social workers, to help find and encourage alternatives to incarceration. In particular, I'd like to give case management workers more support and training to work with youth and transgender people, helping them to confront the reasons they resorted to sex work, and assist them in identifying alternative employment options.

7. Will you support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training to all police officers, including in the handling of intimate partner violence?

Yes, police officers must be trained by the most qualified trainers when confronting sensitive issues, such as domestic -- or any type of intimate partner -- violence.

8. Will you insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

I would highly encourage it; however, professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement cannot be the sole factor that makes a candidate attractive.

9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including the chronically underemployed trans population?

Yes, the Department of Employment Services should increase efforts to recruit and hire under-represented populations.

10. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing?

Yes, we need to improve resources available for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, particularly providing more options for transitional housing throughout the city.

11. Will you support strengthening Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) reforms by eliminating license protests filed by citizens associations and ad hoc groups, requiring stakeholders to participate in the community process provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission?

No, I cannot support any efforts to eliminate the participation of nearby residents and

other stakeholders. It is important that the residents and businesses in the surrounding area be supportive of new bars and restaurants because of the tremendous effect they have on neighborhoods. For example, bars and restaurants located on 8th St SE have contributed to parking problems and the city, at the request of residents of the local area, have instituted parking restrictions so that residents do not have to compete with patrons for parking. Noise and trash issues also directly affect residents, and restaurants and bars should be able to work with the neighborhood to avoid conflict.

12. Will you defend 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?

Yes, adults should have the right to choose and purchase adult entertainment within the district.



2/6/2014

February 26, 2014

Richard Rosendall, President
Charles Butler, VP of Political Affairs
Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
P.O. Box 75265, Washington, DC 20013

Dear Mr. Rosendall and Mr. Butler,

I wanted to thank you for GLAA's involvement in the 2014 D.C. elections. It is so important to have the voices of long-standing civic organizations like GLAA in the conversation about the future of the District.

I was hoping I could provide some additional information about my record on LGBT issues. I'm afraid that I focused on answering the specific questions in the GLAA candidate survey and did not do an adequate job of describing my history fighting for equality and working on specific LGBT issues.

I am very proud of my work on behalf of the LGBT community in my nearly 20 years of public service. I believe I have a strong history of working on a wide range of key policy advances towards equality. In my capacity as a senior staffer to Majority Leader Harry Reid, Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, and then-Senator Barack Obama, I had the privilege of working on the following initiatives:

- The ongoing legislative fight to bring equality to the workplace with the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, with decisive action in the U.S. Senate;
- The successful effort to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell";
- The ongoing fight for marriage equality, with strong shifts in support from top leadership in the U.S. Senate;
- The passage of landmark hate crimes legislation, expanding key protections and legal recourse;
- The fight against the Federal Marriage Amendment, and related fights at the state and local level across the country;
- Historic legislation to allow LGBT U.S. citizens and green card holders the right to petition for their partners to join them in the United States;
- The expansion of the VAWA to provide, for the first time, protections and services to survivors of domestic violence regardless of sexual orientation; and
- Support for consistent funding for HIV/AIDS research and treatment.

I would be happy to discuss my history working on LGBT issues more or to clarify any of my positions on current initiatives in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this additional information.
All the best,

Darrel Thompson
Candidate for DC City Council, Ward 6