

Evans for Mayor Questionnaire

PUBLIC HEALTH

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)?

Yes. Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, has the fundamental right to pursue their own happiness. It is paramount that everyone be given that opportunity. That is why I worked to amend the Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression, thereby adding extra protection to the transgender community. We must create an environment that supports and encourages those identifying as transgender, one that allows them to feel comfortable in their bodies. Since my tenure on the City Council, we have made tremendous strides in providing care for the LGBT community. Now is the time to ensure, with all haste, full health-care coverage for the transgender community. We can also do more in the way of disseminating information to D.C. Government employees to ensure they are fully aware of their options. From an educational standpoint, sexual orientation education can also supplement cultural competency classes.

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

Yes. I support the funding of LGBT health initiatives to properly address the unique needs of the community, including funding for mental health, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse programs. I co-sponsored legislation such as the "Conversion Therapy for Minors Prohibition Amendment Act" which, when passed, will protect minors from conversion "therapy" a practice proven to have caused depression and other mental health issues.

3. 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.

Since first joining the D.C. Council in the early 90s, I have made HIV/AIDS prevention a top priority. In 1994, I co-sponsored the HIV/AIDS Services Grant Making Authority, which has provided much needed funding to HIV/AIDS related services. In 1995, I introduced Emergency Legislation, the "Human Immunodeficiency Virus Transmission Prevention Amendment Act," to



allow community based organizations to establish a clean needle exchange program.

Over the years, HAHSTA has made tremendous advances, including condom distribution and an HIV testing campaign; however, there is still room for HAHSTA to improve. Improving the management and oversight of funds, HIV surveillance, and implementing sexual health education programs across Charter schools will further advance the administration. As Mayor, I would encourage the implementation of training programs to educate healthcare providers and patients about HIV symptoms, develop post-exposure prophylaxis in all emergency rooms, urgent care centers, and health clinics. I would encourage the training of healthcare providers to refer patients to specialized testing if the need should arise. 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 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; that is why I helped create the Senior HIV/AIDS Education and Outreach Program, which trains seniors to serve as peer educators and collaborates with the Department of Health to administer education and outreach programs.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

4. Will you require the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including on LGBT-related hate crimes and intimate partner violence?

Yes. I believe that there is no greater priority than the safety and security of our citizens. I have long recognized the unique public safety challenges confronting the LGBT community. That is why I supported the creation of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit within the Metropolitan Police Department. Once seen as a world-renowned model, the unit needs strengthening. This can be accomplished by reinforcing the core unit with seven officers and a full-time sergeant.

I also worked extensively with Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV) to implement the District's "Bias-Related Crimes Act." Advancing a focused and progressive agenda will eradicate hate crimes and minimize instances of partner violence. As Mayor, I will work closely with activist and community organizations such as D.C. Trans Coalition (DCTC), and the Rainbow Response Coalition to develop a comprehensive multi-agency strategy to reduce hate crimes. For this to be successful, my administration will not only provide funds and resources, but will work to maintain and improve data collection and reporting on hate crimes against the LGBT community.



5. 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?

I think a combination of various strategies are important to deriving effective alternatives. We can do a much better job of catching would-be prostitutes by addressing youth homelessness and minimizing discrimination against transgendered persons. Drop-in centers, transitional housing, job training and other educational programs, counseling, addiction recovery programs, and mental health services have done well with helping to prevent prostitution. 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. Inclusion in the DC Human Rights Act is pivotal.

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

Yes. I have always supported cultural competency training for police officers, especially new recruits and lateral transfers. However, fewer than one-tenth have of officers have undergone training by GLOV. As Mayor, I will change this. When I championed the creation of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit at MPD, I intended it to evolve to an entity that would be sustained by future collaboration with community organization and continued grant funding.

I believe so strongly in this unit that when Chief Lanier threatened to eliminate the special liaison units, I actively fought for its retention, personally discussed the matter with the Chief, and helped urge further dialogue between the Chief and community members to retain that as a specific entity (now within the Special Liaison Unit). In training and liaison efforts, I further believe specific attention should be paid to the needs and concerns of the transgendered community, who have been profiled by police particularly with respect to accusations of prostitution. As Mayor, I will sharpen and closely monitor compliance of General Order, "Handling Interactions with Transgender Individuals."

HUMAN RIGHTS

7. Will you require that anyone you appoint as Director of the Office of Human Rights 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. A professional background in human rights law would be ideal. It is equally important to have an individual who adheres to procedures and falls in line with compliance. Requiring specific training and experience is a good idea to ensure this competence, so long as it does not 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 a great Director as well.

8. Will you renew, enforce, and update as necessary the Mayoral Order mandating explicit inclusion of every class protected under the D.C. Human Rights Act in all D.C. government agency nondiscrimination statements?

Yes. D.C.'s Human Rights Act is one of the strongest in the country, and I have been proud to continue working to enforce and expand it. It is unacceptable that some agencies have incomplete lists of these protected classes in their nondiscrimination policies, and as Mayor I will renew, enforce, and update the Mayoral Order to ensure that everyone enjoys the same rights and privileges. Furthermore, I will continue to speak out against discrimination and prejudice when I see it.

9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, and will you hire trans persons in your own office?

Yes. I have strongly supported the efforts of programs such as Project Empowerment, and support creating a separate and distinct category of protection under the DCHRA to reduce workplace discrimination. Transgender persons living in the District face unemployment rates ten times the national average. It was reported that "More transgender women have been murdered in the last decade than were employed by the D.C. Government." This must change. As Mayor, I will work with my colleagues and key advocates such as the Transgender Economic Empowerment Initiative, and the Transgender Law Center to enhance legal protections and provide funding support in the budget to support tailored educational and hiring programs for the transgender community. An Evans administration will certainly include LGBT persons working in the appropriate offices to better serve the community.

YOUTH AND SENIORS



10. Will you act to ensure improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including expanding transitional housing and emergency shelter space?

Yes. I will continue to support the passage of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act, which establishes a minimum number of beds be made available for LGBTQ youth and adds LGBT Affairs to the Interagency Council on Homelessness. Although it is estimated roughly 10% of the population identifies as LGBT, we know that this population accounts for 30% of youth receiving homeless services account for 30%. That is why I co-sponsored the "LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act" to develop policies to reduce the rate of homelessness within this community.

Shelter staff should also receive sensitivity and diversity training to better serve the homeless LGBT population. Those identifying as LGBT in DCPS schools are three times likelier to run away or attempt suicide. We can prevent this. I acknowledge the unique needs of homeless LGBT youth and seniors and as Mayor will work with community partners to improve services, including expanding shelters, transitional housing, and help finding permanent housing.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

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

Yes. It is important that businesses who have completed the community process to continue their services without interference from protests. However, I believe there is substantial room for improvement with the ABC regulatory process. I have heard from both residents and businesses that the ABC board takes too long to make decisions. I think this needs to be a more decisive process because both sides deserve to have their concerns addressed and their rights protected. Dragging out some of these cases months and months really can be very unfair to everyone and unnecessarily divisive. I believe the law also should foster more constructive conflict resolution.

12. Do you pledge to find a suitably located space for The DC Center when the Reeves Center closes?

Yes. I have a strong record of supporting key initiatives that improve the life of our LGBT



citizens, such as the DC Center, and would be happy to assist in finding the DC Center a permanent home. Furthermore, any future decisions must be mindful and respectful of cultural and entertainment centers for the LGBT community.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

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. I highlight my support for the community and issues in my literature, etc., and I was likewise very pleased to be recognized by The GLAA, The Washington Blade, the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club previously. In short, I will run an inclusive campaign as I have in the past.

Please [see attachment](#) for my comprehensive record as an activist and ardent supporter of LGBT issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jae", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Legislation introduced/co-sponsored by Councilmember Evans

Council Period 20

- Bill 20-142, JaParker Deoni Jones Birth Certificate Equality Amendment Act of 2013 - Birth Certificate Bill B20-32, Surrogacy Parenting Agreement Act of 2013 - *Legalization and regulation of surrogacy parenting agreements*
- Bill 20-118, Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013
- Domestic Partnership Termination Recognition Amendment Act of 2013 *allows couples who initiate domestic partnership in other jurisdictions to terminate their domestic partnership in DC, and have that termination recognized by other jurisdictions (sponsored) (not moved yet)*

Council Period 19

- Bill 19-17, Human Rights for Ex-Offenders Amendment Act of 2011

Council Period 18

- Bill 18-66 Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Amendment Act of 2009 *provides legal recognition of parent-child relationship for children born to domestic partners*
- Bill 18-482, Religious Freedom and Civil **Marriage Equality** Amendment Act of 2009

Council Period 17

- Bill 17-135, Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008 –*overhauls numerous provisions to bring equity to domestic partners and their families.*
- Bill 17-136 Domestic Partnership Claim of Dead Bodies From the Anatomical Board Act of 2007” *grants domestic partners standing as related to the deceased to provide for funerals that would otherwise be held at public expense (sponsored) (did not move)*
- Bill 17-183, Omnibus Domestic Partner Real Property Amendment Act of 2007 – *(did not move)*
- Bill 17 - 328 Parental Equality for Domestic Partners Amendment Act of 2007 *(sponsored) (did not move)*
- Bill 17-331 Domestic Partner Inheritance Tax Fairness Act of 2007 *(sponsored) (did not move)*
- Bill 17-726 Domestic Partnership Police and Fire Amendment Act of 2008 - *gives domestic partners equity in retirement benefits; includes domestic partners as survivors for purposes of police and fire retirements*
- Bill 17-727 Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Act of 2008 *(did not move) see council period 18*

Council Period 16

- Bill 16-52, Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2006 – *grants domestic partners similar rights and responsibilities currently held by spousal couples in the areas of spousal immunity, inheritance, surviving spouses and children, spousal support, and public assistance. (sponsored)*
- Bill 16-405 , Domestic Partner Health Care Benefits Tax Exemption Act of 2005 *exempts from gross income the employer contribution to health insurance for a domestic partner*
- Bill 16- 671 Domestic Partnership Property Equity Act of 2006/Property Interest Amendment Act – *grants domestic partners similar rights and responsibilities currently held by married individuals in the area of property rights.*
- Bill 16-958, Domestic Partnerships Joint Filing Act of 2006 –*allows domestic partnerships to file their income taxes jointly*

Council Period 15

- Bill 15-37 “Health Care Decisions Act of 2003”- *includes domestic partners and close friends among the persons authorized to make health-care decisions for incapacitated individuals, and provides some flexibility in the priority list of individuals who may be authorized to make such decisions*
- Bill 15-79 *Elimination of Outdated Crimes Amendment Act of 2003 – removed several outdated provisions from the code (sponsored)*
- Bill 15-462 “Deed Recordation Tax and Related Amendments Act of 2004” *exempts from taxation deeds recorded by domestic partners, includes domestic partners as a member of a decedent’s family; adds domestic partners to the list of persons inappropriate for appointment as a housing receiver; exempts from taxation transfers between domestic partners; permits a domestic partner to add his/her partner, without charge, to the registration of his/her vehicle.*
- Bill 15-756 “Health Care Benefits Expansion Amendment Act of 2004” – *would bring the percentage of cost of health insurance paid by a DC Gov’t employee for coverage of a domestic partner into parity with percentage of health insurance paid by a DC Gov’t employee for other family coverage. (did not move)*
- Bill 15-1075 *Domestic Partnership Protection Amendment Act of 2004 –amends Humans Rights Act to extend the protection of the act to domestic partnerships. (sponsored)*
- PR 15-751 “Sense of the Council on Opposing a Federal Marriage Amendment Resolution of 2004” – *opposition to amending the Constitution of the United States for the purpose of defining marriage.*

Council Period 14

- Bill 14-326, “HIV Unique Identifier System Amendment Act of 2001”, *would prohibit use of social security numbers and country of origin as part of unique identifier system for HIV cases, and require information on transgender status be collected. (did not move)*

Council Period 13

Council Period 12

- Bill 12-521, the “Civilian Complaint Review Act of 1998” -*est. independent Office of Citizen Complaint Review (passed)*
- Bill 12-816, *Metropolitan Police Department Management Reform Act of 1998 (introduced)*

Council Period 11

- Bill 11-324 *Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Amendment Act of 1995 –allows qualified community based organizations or other qualified individuals, to exchange needles and syringes under the Needle Exchange Program in DC.*
- Bill 11-343 *Extended Health Benefits Amendment Act of 1995 helps all DC employee’s apply for extended health care benefits ,and continue health care coverage if have to leave their job unexpectedly (did not move)*

Council Period 10

- Bill 10-30, “Right to Privacy Amendment Act of 1993” – *amend DC Criminal Code to eliminate criminal sanctions for certain private, consensual, non-commercial sexual acts between two persons who are above the existing age of consent. Repeals DC’s sodomy law.*
- Bill 10-477, “Domestic Violence in Dating Relationships Amendment Act of 1994” – *protection if not living with person they are in a relationship with.*
- Bill 10-501, “HIV/AIDS Services Grant Making Authority Act of 1994”

Council Period 9

- Bill 9-162, Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992(introduced as District of Columbia Domestic Partnership Act of 1991) -- authorizes unmarried persons, regardless of gender to register as domestic partners in DC. (*John Wilson introduced*)

Other notes

- Bill 11-116, Human Rights Amendment Act of 1995 introduced by Mayor Barry
- Bill 12-612, the "Opened Alcoholic Beverage Containers Amendment Act of 1998", aka the Chardonnay Lady Bill, or the "Front Porch Drinking Act of 1998" introduced by Councilmember Schwartz
- Worked with GLOV on the implementation of the "Biased Related Crimes Act of 1989"
- Support use of medical marijuana
- Oppose school vouchers

Subject: GLAA Rating

Date: Friday, February 14, 2014 1:44:53 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)

To: 'Richard Rosendall'

Rick,

Thank you for the opportunity to elaborate on my record and revisit the rating process. As we discussed, I believe my record, from 22 years ago to today demonstrates my staunch commitment to GLAA and LGBT issues. I attached a 3-page addendum to my questionnaire listing a number of issues for which I have been in the forefront in each Council period. I understand that it would be helpful if I also provided more emphasis on my advocacy from the past 12 months.

As you know, I chair the Finance & Revenue Committee. In the budget process during the summer of 2013, I drafted and moved legislative language in my committee report entitled the "Marriage Equality Estate Tax Clarification Act of 2013." This subtitle directs the Chief Financial Officer to make any changes to estate tax forms, instructions and regulations necessary to make it clear that all married couples are eligible for estate tax benefits regardless of whether such marriage is recognized under federal law. I have attached excerpts from my report and addendum for your convenient reference.

As you know, my jurisdiction on civil rights issues is limited by the committee I chair. While I am happy to move legislation such as I described above, with many bills I can only introduce and advocate for their successful passage. On that front, though, I have to at least point out that while I co-introduced the Marriage Officiant Bill three times, the person you gave credit to for shepherding it through committee only co-introduced it a single time. Further, you gave the Chairman a rating of 10 despite his failure to move the bill forward the other two times it was introduced! I am not suggesting that you lower anyone else's ratings, but I wonder if these facts were considered during your deliberations. I also co-introduced and advocated for the Birth Certificate Equality bill, which again was sent to another committee.

From being at the forefront of these issues 22 years ago to reserving the room in which you conducted your endorsement deliberations this very week, as well as for every other meeting you hold in the Wilson building, I think it is fair for me to be known as GLAA's champion. This is the reason why I am honored to be the lead mover and presenter of the ceremonial resolution honoring GLAA's anniversary every year and always ensure that I attend in person. I recognize the important work GLAA does, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in the future. I will ask my staff to give you a call to further discuss the rating this evening.

The Committee recommends adoption of this proposed subtitle, with technical amendments as suggested by the General Counsel.

c. Section-by-Section Analysis

n/a

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

See Appendix C for the Committee's Budget Support Act legislative language recommendations.

17. MARRIAGE EQUALITY ESTATE TAX CLARIFICATION

a. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This subtitle directs the Chief Financial Officer to make any changes to estate tax forms, instructions and regulations necessary to make it clear that all married couples are eligible for estate tax deductions and exclusions, including the spousal exclusion of bequests, whether direct or through trusts, to a surviving spouse, regardless of whether such marriage is recognized under federal law.

b. Committee Reasoning

The Committee recommends adoption of this proposed subtitle, with technical amendments as suggested by the General Counsel.

c. Section-by-Section Analysis

n/a

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

See Appendix C for the Committee's Budget Support Act legislative language recommendations.

18. WASHINGTON LATIN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CAMPUS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

a. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This subtitle would make permanent tax exemptions authorized by an emergency measure. Specifically, it would amend Chapter 10 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code to exempt from taxation certain property owned or ground leased by Washington Latin Public Charter School (PCS) or Latin Rudolph QALCB, LLC, nonprofit corporations. Washington Latin PCS is relocating to the former Rudolph Elementary School, which it was

1 Housing, Inc., or Jubilee Housing Limited Partnership, and continue to be under applicable use
2 restrictions during a federal low-income housing tax credit compliance period, and not used for
3 commercial purposes, subject to the provisions of §§ 47-1005, 47-1007, and 47-1009.”.

4 Sec. xx. Applicability.

5 This act shall apply as of October 1, 2012.

6 Sec. xx. Fiscal effect.

7 This subtitle shall be funded in FY 2014 via revenue generated from the cross-tax offset,
8 as referenced in the FY 2014 Budget Request Act Recommendations.

9 **SUBTITLE . MARRIAGE EQUALITY ESTATE TAX CLARIFICATION**

10
11 Sec. xx. Short title.

12
13 This subtitle may be cited as the "Marriage Equality Estate Tax Clarification Act of
14 2013".

15 Sec. xx. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to make such clarifying changes to all
16 estate tax forms, filing instructions and regulations as necessary to make it clear that all married
17 couples are eligible for estate tax deductions and exclusions, including the spousal exclusion of
18 bequests, whether direct or through trusts, to a surviving spouse, regardless of whether such
19 marriage is recognized under federal law.

20 **SUBTITLE . WASHINGTON LATIN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CAMPUS**
21 **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

22
23 Sec. xx. Short title.

24 This subtitle may be cited as the “Washington Latin Public Charter School Campus
25 Property Tax Exemption Act of 2013”.

26 Sec. 2. Chapter 10 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as
27 follows: