

From: Bruce Majors <majors.bruce@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Richard Rosendall <equal@glaa.org>
Subject: Fwd: Updated GLAA answers - discard earlier versions

Bruce Majors, Libertarian for Mayor

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)?

As Mayor I will seek to increase all options for how District government employees can choose to use their own healthcare dollars, including increasing insurance options and reducing barriers to entry for insurance companies. I would oppose attempts by any level of government to tell D.C. government employees (or anyone else) what treatments or procedures they can pursue. I would not allow the government to define which reconstructive or cosmetic options are approved and which not, but would instead respect consumer sovereignty. I would oppose a precedent of having the D.C. government design a one size fits all health care plan or insurance policy for all D.C. employees.

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

I would ensure that funds budgeted for any area do not exclude or discriminate against any population. I would seek to allow each individual more choice in how they use the funds budgeted. Ideally where possible people eligible for these programs would have something like an EBT card or voucher and be able to choose their own care provider. I think it's also important for gay activist to recognize that traditionally a major source of discrimination is the state sector, whether it is bullying at the school a child is assigned to with no choice, or in the past teachers being fired for being gay when exposure to homosexuality was thought to be inappropriate for children. Likewise today I think those incarcerated by the state, whether in government schools or in jail or prison, are among those most likely to be denied safe sex information, condoms, and freedom from bullying and sexual aggression. I favor liberating the incarcerated who have not committed a crime or have committed a "victimless crime," but while incarcerated in a government institution they should not be denied mental health or substance abuse treatment or information about STDs and safe sex.

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.

I would seek to end the "War on Drugs" and incarceration of those using drugs, so that more people could come out into the open and seek treatment for addiction as needed, in part to reduce HIV transmission from needle sharing and in part to reduce HIV transmission from risky behavior undertaken while using drugs. I think it's also important for gay activists to recognize that traditionally a major source of discrimination is the state sector, whether it is bullying at the school a child is assigned to with no choice, or in the past teachers being fired for being gay when exposure to homosexuality was thought to be inappropriate for children. Likewise today I think those incarcerated by the state, whether in government schools or in jail or prison, are among those most likely to be denied safe sex information, condoms, and freedom from bullying and sexual aggression. I favor liberating the incarcerated who have not committed a crime or have committed a "victimless crime," but while incarcerated in a government institution they should not be denied mental health or substance abuse treatment or information about STDs and safe sex.

I also believe the Mayor and his or her surrogates and staff should regularly address affected populations, including students, about HIV and other STD transmission and prevention.

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?

I do believe these statistics should be collected, and additionally statistics on bullying and types of bullying should be collected, by school and type of school (public, charter, parochial, private).

I also favor ending exclusive dependence on the MPD for protection -- I favor removing barriers to legal gun ownership for LGBT people who do not have criminal records or other issues, especially those who have reasonable concerns about gay bashing in areas where they live or work. I think an LGBT group in D.C. should teach them responsible firearms storage, ownership, and use and how to obtain a license and choose a firearm. Barriers to non-governmental groups establishing shooting ranges and clubs inside D.C. for training should be removed.

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 would legalize all drug use, decriminalize all drug production and exchange, free all those incarcerated for selling or using drugs, and expunge all criminal records related to these activities. I would similarly decriminalize all "sex work," free those incarcerated for being "sex workers," and expunge criminal records related to these activities.

I would not create or fund special government programs targeted at these people, whose activities I would make no concern of the State. I would also ensure that they were treated like everyone else when accessing any government program available to others.

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?

I would ensure that the Metropolitan Police Department adequately trained its officers in all aspects of DC's diverse populations and advertised job openings to and hired from all DC population groups. This would include training as needed on LGTB issues.

Beyond that I favor removing barriers to legal gun ownership for LGBT people who do not have criminal records or other issues, especially those who have reasonable concerns about gay bashing in areas where they live or work. I think an LGBT group in D.C. should teach them responsible firearms storage, ownership and use and how to obtain a license and choose a firearm. Barriers to non-governmental groups establishing shooting ranges and clubs inside D.C. for training should be removed.

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?

I would ensure that both the Director and the staff of any DC agency dealing with human rights have a commitment to human rights, individual freedom and civil liberties and a background and expertise to perform the job effectively. Ideally I'd prefer someone with a background of working with the ACLU, NORML, MPP, or other groups critical of law enforcement abuses, over criminalization, the militarization of police departments, the expansion of the surveillance state, and not merely someone who has worked within a law enforcement bureaucracy where they handled EOE complaints.

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?

I would ensure that the DC government obey its own laws and treat all people equally without discrimination. In some sense the expanding list of "protected classes" under DC law, which under DC fair housing law is now over 20 classes, including such things as "matriculation" and "political affiliation," may tend to dilute and make light of serious violence and discrimination against women, LGTB people, racial minorities and other groups. But the DC government should be required to obey its own laws, and Mayoral Orders mandating this should be issued. If the DC government finds a law it has issued to difficult to obey, then it should consider its impact on citizens in general.

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?

I would conduct a study of D.C. government agencies, including the Metro system and the public school system, to see if there are patterns of extreme over- or under-representation in hiring, and if so if there are problems with nepotism or discrimination in any particular agencies. As a Libertarian I am not surprised that a government program to help or promote trans persons did not work as intended. When I ran for office in 2012 I was contacted by people using D.C. government employment training programs who would complain of their complete worthlessness and ask me to help or advise them in some way. I would be happy to hire a trans person or persons who would be effective at a job, including a high profile job, and highlight the irrelevance of their sexual identity to their work.

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?

I would transfer title to unused D.C. properties (e.g. closed schools) to non-profits, including those working in this area, and allow them to sell off some of the assets to refurbish as needed or help run the programs. I would prefer that both youth and seniors had choices among a variety of non-profit and for profit care providers, and not become wards or incarcerated in a state monopoly poor house. One suspects among other issues, and given DC's failure to police its own at the highest levels in the past few years, that DC regulatory agencies might be lax with a government shelter or government housing, and more pro-active in investigating a non-governmental one, for health and safety issues.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

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?

I would eliminate the ABC and liquor licensing. If McDonald's wants to serve wine as it does abroad, it should be free to sell it and D.C. residents should be free to buy it, just as if they were in Quebec or Paris. Until the ABC is eliminated I would take any step to end harassment of local businesses by competitors and people who want to interfere with private consensual activity of their neighbors.

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

Center closes?

We have all seen recently the downside of the politicized misuse of government infrastructure in the case of Governor Chris Christie's office's snarling traffic on a bridge under its control. This highly publicized case happens daily around the country but simply gets less coverage, in part because no one suggests alternative ways of arranging things. I would transfer title to closed or unused D.C. government properties to non-profit groups like the DC Center and allow them to function independently. I do not favor a government controlled or managed gay community center, where the government or an incumbent administration will attempt to define the gay community. Many other cities have managed to create and sustain gay community centers in the voluntary sector, and many of them have lower average incomes than D.C. and a smaller gay population than D.C. Among other problems, as with all government property, a state-approved gay community center will encourage and politicize conflicts over who gets to use spaces, resources, or programs. I think religious gay groups and anti-religious gay groups, radical feminist lesbians and transgender groups, and other parts of the gay community who have contradictory ideas about social issues should not be pitted against each other as protesters are on public sidewalks or parents are in public schools, but instead should be allowed to each freely associate and disassociate as they choose.

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 openly gay in DC since 1980. In the early 80s my activism consisted mainly of working on libertarian causes and anti-draft registration causes, and very publicly kissing my then lover at airport terminals, when, in pre-TSA days, you could accompany a loved one right up to the door of the plane. We also had a joint checking account and used a hyphenated last name on it, because again, in those pre-Patriot Act days, you could just do that, free of government restrictions.

In the late 80s, when I was both a staff and a graduate student at Georgetown University, and it was fighting over whether to legitimize its undergraduate gay student group, I conceived and started, with two other graduate students I recruited, a Gay and Lesbian Lunch Group for Staff, Faculty and Graduate Students. It was a time when there were many news stories about self-segregated lunch tables in American high schools. We produced clever flyers, usually depicting some famous person the average person did not realize was gay (Greta Garbo, Jodie Foster, etc.) announcing that there would be a gay lunch table in the Leavey Center and put them up all over campus. Then we'd all pick a table and have lunch together bi-weekly.

In the early and mid 90s I attended a variety of DC gay group meetings, including GLAA, GLOV, Asians and Friends, the Lesbian Power Breakfast, the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, and the Potomac Executive Network. I also did some gay community outreach for the initial campaign of Jack Evans for city council, recruited by his old staffer John Ralls, and I did gay community outreach for Nancy Lord, JD, MD, a

(heterosexual) woman who ran for Mayor as a Libertarian candidate in the early 1990s. I also supported both Carol Schwartz, and then Patrick Mara, in earlier elections, first for supporting civil unions (Schwartz) and then for supporting gay marriage (Mara) instead of civil unions.

In the mid and late 90s I became a regular attendee and eventually for a number of years a fairly major sponsor of Reel Affirmations, D.C.'s Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. (if you check any program from the years 1999-2007 you can see my listing as a sponsor, for anyone not old enough to remember.)

In the late 1990s and early 2000s I became a member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Federal Club and donated \$25,000 to HRC at a silent auction, winning a spot as an extra on "Will and Grace." I also donated lesser amounts to other groups like the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. From 2000 to 2002 I donated over \$20,000, mainly through the Gay and Lesbian Interests group and gay and lesbian bundlers like Claire Lucas, to the Democratic Party, including the campaigns of Howard Dean, Al Gore, and John Kerry. I also gave smaller amounts to Jim Kolbe and the Log Cabin Republicans. (You can find most of my donations at OpenSecrets.Org by doing a search at <http://www.opensecrets.org/indivs/search.php?name=majors&state=DC&zip>)

Last year I published an essay in support of gay marriage in the online magazine **Doublethink**, published by America's Future Foundation, a group that networks young free market oriented interns and professionals in DC and other cities (<http://americasfuture.org/doublethink/2013/06/a-guide-to-the-marriage-debate/>)