

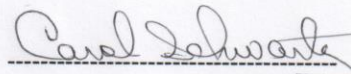
**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
2014 Questionnaire for D.C. Mayoral Candidates**

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)? [Note: this question has been overtaken by events since it was drafted at the start of 2014. Study the Mayor's executive action here: <http://tinyurl.com/kn2dzty>]*

I am committed to being a mayor for all people. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated in a Schwartz administration. Fortunately, the Affordable Care Act and its implementing rules prohibit plans from discriminating on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The law and regulations also prohibit discrimination by many health care providers, such as doctors, hospitals, and clinics. However, the new rules have not yet been interpreted to mean that discrimination includes denying someone transition-related surgery. As such, I will act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. government employees, including coverage for sex affirmation surgery. As mayor I will also ensure that not only D.C. government employees and their dependents have access to this coverage, but that these health services are accessible to all residents receiving coverage through Medicaid and through the District's Health Link. I support and would extend the Mayor's executive action to ensure that individuals diagnosed with gender dysphoria are afforded the same right to obtain the full measure of benefits as individuals seeking medically necessary treatment for non-gender identity or expression related conditions; or as they themselves would experience for non-gender identity-related health care concerns.

I am proud that the District of Columbia is one of a handful of jurisdictions such as San Francisco, Boston and our neighbors in Maryland to eliminate many transition-related exclusions in health care coverage. My administration will be committed to ensuring that health care in the District of Columbia is of the highest quality for trans people and all Washingtonians.


Carol Schwartz

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

Throughout my career in service, both on the Council and my extensive involvement with various charities, I have fought to eliminate inequitable conditions wherever they may exist, and to whomever they may apply, including LGBT people. For instance, over a 17-year period (raising and contributing thousands of dollars along the way), I worked as a volunteer at Whitman-Walker Clinic, most notably during the early years of the AIDS crisis when disparities – and the stigma against the LGBT community – were perhaps at their greatest. That commitment was recognized by my election as Vice President of the Board of Directors. My efforts on the Council extended from assuring adequate funding to address the HIV epidemic to shepherding legislation to improve the health of all residents such as the “Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008.”

On a national level, we know that health disparities between LGBT people and the general population exist at alarming rates. For example, in the area of mental health, according to a National Health Statistics Report published by the CDC titled “Sexual Orientation and Health Among U.S. Adults,” gay men were 45% more likely than straight men to have experienced psychological distress in the past 30 days, with lesbians 16% more likely than straight women, and most alarmingly, bisexuals 182% more likely than the straight population. Many members of the LGBT community are at risk for not only mental health issues, but physical ones, due to stress, stigma, and lack of access to care. Many sources also report that drug and alcohol abuse occur at higher rates in the LGBT community, another result of increased stressors for those in the community. To that end, I will make drug and alcohol treatment on demand a goal as mayor.

To better address the problem of health disparities among LGBT people and more effectively provide prevention, care and treatment services in D.C., we need data to more fully understand the disparities as they specifically relate to all segments of the population as well as the factors that lead to the disparities in order to best allocate funds and hold agencies accountable for delivering results to improve the health of all residents. Such data will also help to create greater awareness that can mobilize community efforts. Thus, the first line of business must be a concerted effort to improve the collection of data, including sexual orientation and gender identity, on health-related surveys in the District.

In addition to targeting funds where the data indicates a specified need, government agencies must be held accountable so that every program meets the needs of D.C. residents. We must evaluate how these programs are serving LGBT citizens. To that end, I would ensure that the Mayor’s Office of LGBT affairs works with agencies throughout the government to regularly assess the health and social service needs of LGBT residents and how those needs are being met.

Health disparities also need to be addressed by having LGBT competency training for healthcare providers. We should require that any provider who receives public funding must provide LGBT competency training to its staff. And we should coordinate with the various licensing boards to offer continuing education credits to those practitioners to improve the quality of care provided in D.C.



Carol Schwartz

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.

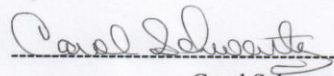
As you will note on my record of past accomplishments, since the earliest days of the HIV epidemic, I have worked to support strong prevention, care and treatment services, including serving for 17 years on the Board of Whitman-Walker Clinic and a member of the Health and Human Services Committee on the D.C. Council. After three decades, the HIV epidemic remains a serious and persistent threat to the health of the District of Columbia. Despite that we are only 0.2% of the United States population, the District accounts for 2% of those newly diagnosed in 2011 and 1.7% of all persons living with diagnosed HIV infection. Upon becoming mayor, I will continue Mayor Gray's leadership and strong commitment to ending HIV/AIDS.

Recent reports show that the District is headed in the right direction in its efforts to end AIDS, but that there is still much more work to do. The 2014 Annual HIV Epidemiology & Surveillance Report shows that the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in the District of Columbia decreased from 1,180 in 2008 to 680 in 2012, a decline of 42%. However, the data shows that despite a pattern suggesting a slow decline in new infections, gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continued to show the highest number of newly reported and existing HIV cases. We must do more in the way of information and prevention to keep them safe.


On September 9, 2014, the CDC released the first annual report highlighting state-level baseline information on six HIV prevention and care indicators (*State HIV Prevention Progress Report, 2014*). While the District leads in achieving the 2015 National HIV Prevention Strategy goal of increasing HIV testing, there is significant room for improvement on the critical indicator of retaining people in care. As mayor, I will create a public dashboard to bring attention and accountability to the city's efforts. I will also maintain a Commission on HIV/AIDS and regularly consult with stakeholders to improve the District's response under leadership of the HASTA Director in coordination with other core agencies, including the Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Employment Services, Office of Human Rights, Office of LGBT Affairs, D.C. Public Schools, and Office of Returning Citizens.

Similar to the bold action plan recently introduced by Governor Cuomo in New York, I will also charge the HASTA leadership and other agency heads to implement a strategy to end the epidemic in the District that includes five key steps:

- * Identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care;
- * Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission; and
- * Providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV negative.


Carol Schwartz

- * Enforcing the D.C. Human Rights Act and promote awareness to assure that every citizen has access to housing, employment opportunity, and is safe from stigma and discrimination.
- * Developing public-private partnerships to address poverty, unemployment, school drop-out rates, homelessness, violence and other conditions that affect those most vulnerable to HIV, especially among young black gay males and transgender women.


Carol Schwartz

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

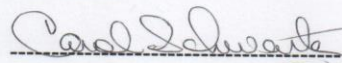
4. *Will you require the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including on LGBT-related hate crimes and intimate partner violence?*

Yes. Data collection and statistical analysis by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is key to better understanding the nature and prevalence of any crimes in general, and LGBT-related crimes specifically so that steps can be taken to better inform and provide protection to our citizens.

A study on hate crimes by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) shows that from 2004 to 2012, an annual average of 270,000 individuals believed they were victims of a hate crime, yet only 104,000 of these were reported to police and a smaller subset were officially classified as hate crimes, only about 5% originally identified in the survey. Worse yet, for at least the last five years here in the District, the hate crimes most frequently reported to the police were against those targeted for their sexual orientation, a fact made more alarming once it's compounded by the amount unreported and unclassified as hate crimes in the BJS study. Commenting on the results of its survey, a BJS representative admitted, "You can see the social and bureaucratic kind of filters that draw people off."

Much like hate crimes, intimate partner violence is prevalent within the LGBT community. While some studies have shown that intimate partner violence occurs in an estimated 25% - 33% of LGBT relationships, because this is an underreported crime we do not necessarily have a complete picture of the problem. For example, a study published in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control found that 75% of bisexual women and 46% of lesbians had had a violent partner in their lives as compared to 43% of straight women. Bisexual and gay men did not fare any better: the percentages that had been with a violent partner were 47% and 40%, respectively, as compared to 21% of straight men. The reasons for underreporting of intimate partner violence within the LGBT community are similar to those found among straight couples but these reasons are complicated by a perceived lack of sensitivity from law enforcement and within the criminal justice system, as well as fear of being re-victimized when seeking help because of their sexual orientation. In any case, there needs to be safe havens for those who are the victims of such violence.

For the LGBT community, lack of trust for the institutions designed to protect citizens is a critical barrier to reporting these crimes, and I will work to ensure that my office assists in building bridges among all stakeholders. The MPD can easily build that trust through better collection efforts of violent crime statistics as they relate to the LGBT community; if individuals have a better sense that their specific problems are being reported to and acknowledged by the MPD, the more likely they are to report crimes when they happen. And when more crime data is available to the police, there is greater opportunity for the MPD to work in partnership with the LGBT community – including the work done by groups like Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV), D.C. Trans Coalition (DCTC), and the Rainbow Response Coalition – to develop ways to make our city safer by proactively attacking violent crime.



Carol Schwartz

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?*

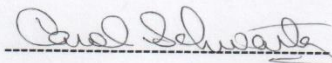
While the District of Columbia is prospering in many areas, unemployment remains high for youth, especially for transgender youth who tend to be marginalized in mainstream society and/or rejected by their families. Unfortunately, young LGBT youth who are displaced from their families become homeless or ill-housed. For many, there is little choice but to resort to prostitution or other crimes for their survival, a choice that often leads to arrest and incarceration. In addition to jail time, penalties for prostitution in the District -- \$500 for first-time offenders, and up to \$1000 for repeat offenders -- may only create a vicious cycle.

Steps can be taken to lessen the incidence of incarceration. Moreover, incarceration isn't helpful to these vulnerable populations of homeless youth and transgender people if it does not provide developmental opportunities and linkage with support networks before and upon release. As mayor I will always be open to diversion programs such as Deferred Prosecution Agreements and Deferred Sentencing Agreements. Creative solutions and partnerships are clearly required to solve this problem and reduce the incidence of survival sex work.

An example of a creative solution includes the groundbreaking Transgender and Gender Identity Respect Campaign initiated by Mayor Vincent Gray and the D.C. Office of Human Rights: advertisements that featured community members with positive messages intending to increase understanding of transgender people. This city-wide campaign, the first government-funded campaign of its kind in the nation exclusively focused on the transgender communities, is designed to reduce incidents of discrimination. Once District residents have equal access to employment, housing and public service, the lower the likelihood that they will have to resort to prostitution, and as a result suffer incarceration. I applaud efforts such as these, and as mayor I will look for ways to expand opportunities for homeless and transgender youth, with an emphasis on proactive programs that intervene before the youth becomes part of the criminal justice system.

As an at-large member of the D.C. Council, I introduced and passed a law in 2000 that prohibited the harassment of students based on sexual orientation so that students would not be bullied out of school. As we work to look to creative solutions, I will work with the D.C. Public Schools to make it a priority to keep these students in school who might be at risk for dropping out and resorting to survival sex.


My administration will also consider expanding Project Empowerment, a District-run employment program that provides job readiness training, work experience, and job search assistance to District residents who face multiple barriers to employment. Project Empowerment is also notable because they offer programs specifically designed to address the unique needs of transgender individuals. Currently the program serves people as young as 22 years old, but I would work to lower the limit to 18 to assist all legal adults in developing skills to help them secure jobs.



Carol Schwartz

I will not stop with merely filling the gap to help those between the ages of 18 to 21, but I would also expand programs for those even younger. Currently, the District's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides District youth ages 14 to 21 with summer work experiences through subsidized placements both in government jobs and within the private sector. And much like the transgender-focused program at Project Empowerment, I would attempt to develop programs within SYEP that place transgender youth with employers sensitive to their needs.

More importantly, through expansion of Project Empowerment and SYEP, I plan to help youth, including transgender youth, develop life skills that will help them break the cycle of homelessness and unemployment, ultimately limiting the number that resort to prostitution.

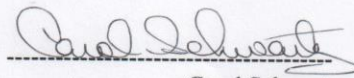

Carol Schwartz

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. Among many things, the District of Columbia is notable for our diverse population. This diversity requires a police force that is sensitive to the specialized needs of our various constituents, including members of the LGBT population.

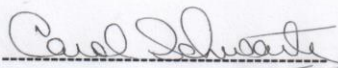
I support continued efforts by groups such as GLOV, DCTC, Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL), Rainbow Response Coalition and Break the Cycle to provide community sensitivity and diversity training to MPD. However, training has not reached all of the MPD force, and considering training of this kind should not only be offered force-wide as a one-off, but on a continual basis, it should be periodically refreshed and re-administered to all officers. We also cannot solely rely on our current volunteer effort. There are compounding factors that contribute to the underreporting of and insensitivity to violent crime, including intimate partner violence, that requires qualified trainers to assist in cultural competency training for the MPD. To implement more expanded training I would find ways – either through specialized grants or budget allocation – to enhance the quantity and quality of community sensitivity and diversity training.

Furthermore, I believe that the best police forces are those that represent the community. I have always made hiring decisions to build teams that reflect our diverse population; these are hiring practices I will continue to support in all aspects of city government, including the MPD. Additionally, I have introduced tax credits in the past for teachers who live in the District, a policy I would support and extend to hiring and retaining the best police officers to serve the communities in which they reside. Ultimately, the more we have a police force that is representative of the people to whom they serve, the greater the likelihood they will also be sensitive to their specific needs, including the needs of the LGBT community.


Carol Schwartz

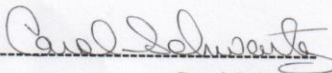
7. *Will you require that anyone you appoint as Director of the Office of Human Rights have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?*

It is very important that the chief enforcer of the District's human rights laws have a strong background that includes relevant training and experience in the many issues that the Office will face. Before selecting a new director, I would ask groups representing the various constituencies to weigh in on their issues of interest and concern. As with all my appointees, the director must possess strong management skills and be a leader in advancing the agency's mission both internally and to the public.


Carol Schwartz

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?*

Absolutely. The DCHRA is one of the strongest human rights laws in existence, and I will demand every effort to ensure its full enforcement. My administration will annually review the Mayoral Order and update it as necessary to assure compliance in all D.C. government agency non-discrimination statements. My entire public service and legislative history has been dedicated to fairness and non-discrimination as evidenced by my helping to ban employment discrimination of teachers and other D.C. Public School personnel as a member of the Board of Education in the 1970s to identifying and providing additional funding for the Office of Human Rights and speaking out against efforts to exempt transgender individuals from certain protections of the Human Rights Act as a Councilmember.


Carol Schwartz

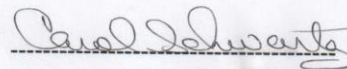
9. *Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, and will you hire trans persons in your own office?*

I am a proud of my record promoting the worth and dignity of every person, including hiring persons from poor and often under-represented populations. During my first term on the Council in the mid-1980s, 50% of my staff were gay, and surrounding myself with a team representative of our city's diversity has always been a hallmark of my career with the District. It goes without saying, therefore, that I will continue this practice and will seriously consider any qualified LGBT applicant.

To that end, finding ways to improve the results of the transgender-focused training provided through Project Empowerment is one key to increasing government hiring from under-represented populations. First, recognition must be made to the fact that transgender individuals have very specialized needs among those of the LGBT community, even more so in the area of employment where transgender people are unemployed at a rate ten times the national average. I have already identified an opportunity earlier that Project Empowerment drop its lower age limit from 22 to 18 in an effort to help transgender youth obtain the skills to help make them more marketable once they become of legal age. However, there are other limitations within Project Empowerment that can be addressed.

Project Empowerment is designed to only place its students in an entry-level job for up to six months, with the assumption that they would have developed the necessary skills to become more self-sufficient at the end of the program. However, since transgender youth face a disproportionate amount of discrimination in the marketplace, surely contributing to their much larger than average rate of unemployment, I would work with Project Empowerment to develop an "Alumni" program designed to assist transgender youth into the next phase of their professional lives. This can be done in partnership with the Department of Employment Services, which can help match an applicant's skills and interests with available opportunities in the District government to ideally ensure stable, long-term employment.

Additionally, previous transgender participants in Project Empowerment, while indicating the benefits of the program still identify barriers that are often difficult to overcome such as the legal, housing and other social service needs. For the program to be successful in meeting these needs, the District should consider forming stronger public-private partnerships with groups such as the Wanda Alston Foundation, Casa Ruby, Whiteman-Walker Clinic, D.C. Legal Services, the D.C. Center for LGBT, and D.C. Trans Coalition.


Carol Schwartz

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. Homelessness is an acute and growing problem in the District. The Metropolitan Council of Governments reports that there has been a 12.9% increase in homeless people in the District since 2013. The dramatically rising cost of housing, stagnant employment opportunities for several segments of our population, and substance use and mental health conditions are major contributors.

There are some studies to suggest that the plight of homelessness disproportionately affects LGBT youth. The Williams Institute reports that as many as 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT. This population of young people is at particular risk for homelessness as many are forced out or run away from home due to abandonment, bullying or other forms of violence caused by their sexual orientation or gender identity. To compound the problems, LGBT youth are more likely to report being harassed and abused in shelters. Protecting our children and youth from harassment has long been a concern of mine, as exemplified by the legislation I crafted on the Council to ban the harassment of students in public and private schools based on sexual orientation. Recent reports also show that LGBT seniors are increasingly vulnerable to homelessness and many lack the family support from either children or other relatives to assist them in later life. Considering the growing homelessness crisis, the rates at which it affects the LGBT community, and the harm LGBT people are vulnerable to when homeless, more must be done.

I am pleased that the Council passed the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2013, which sets a minimum number of beds for LGBTQ homeless youth and mandates culturally competent care at shelters. But we have still much work to do in expanding shelter space in temporary and permanent housing. We also have much work to do towards prevention of homelessness. It is critical to generate an increased supply of affordable housing

The Housing Production Trust Fund, which I helped create on the Council, is the backbone for creating affordable housing units. For too long, it has been underfunded. For FY15, Mayor Gray has committed \$79.3 million to the fund. Since creating affordable housing is among the top issues, if not the top issue, facing D.C. today, I would make it a priority as mayor. I would like to see the Housing Production Trust Fund financed at a level of at least \$100 million year, preferably \$150 million a year, as long as necessary. I would also expand the use of inclusionary zoning which the Council, including myself, passed 13 years ago, but which was not utilized until recently. In addition, I would promote and give incentives to builders who will put more low-income rental housing on the market and make sure they do so by initially imposing large fines if they are not and then giving no future benefits if such non-performing actions continue. There are also opportunities to utilize our city-owned buildings for affordable housing purposes as is being pursued with the Hebrew Home.



Carol Schwartz

Housing and services must be provided to aid those who are homeless to get on the road to stability and in maintaining their independence. Permanent supportive housing with supportive services using the Housing First model is particularly effective in ending the cycle of chronic homelessness, and this is a model I support.

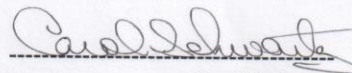
The quality and quantity of emergency shelters must be improved upon for the homeless, especially to meet a crisis that's sadly growing. For instance, D.C. General should be refurbished and furnished with wrap-around services including mental health, drug and alcohol counseling, non-emergency nursing, and job training with all personnel and volunteers undergoing background checks. Services would include those designed for people who identify as LGBT, as well as cultural training for providers of those services. Additionally, particular care must be given to the security of LGBT youth in those facilities and to that end, cultural competency training should be given to security personnel.

Special consideration must also be made toward LGBT seniors. As "Building on Victory" states, transgender as well as ethnic and racial minority LGBT seniors have increased health risks and often live below the poverty level. Housing for these seniors can be insecure. Increased investment in affordable should help and some of this supply could be reserved for seniors. I am pleased that the Age-Friendly D.C. initiative has made priorities of securing a wide range of housing options for seniors, including aging in place.

Homeless seniors face particular burdens, especially health-wise, and often face early mortality as a result. The wrap-around services in emergency shelters as well as permanent housing must meet the needs of this population and competence training should be given to staff as it relates to seniors.

Increased services are also crucial for our LGBT senior population overall. More coordination is needed among the D.C. Office of Aging and other resources including the LGBT Aging Coalition of Elders. And we need to gather more information to hone in on the needs of LGBT seniors.

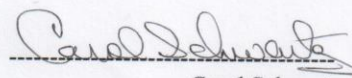
Seniors, and this is particularly true for LGBT seniors, are often isolated and thus social interaction is crucial for them. During my time as a Board member and then as President (its first woman President in its 62-year history) of the Metropolitan Police Boys' and Girls' Club, we cultivated successful cross-generational mentoring programs. This kind of program could bring together LGBT seniors and youth and could greatly benefit both groups.


Carol Schwartz

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?*

The "Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Act of 2012" represents a significant improvement to the licensing of our city's restaurants and bars. I support this legislation and would have voted for it as a member of the Council and signed it as Mayor. Further reforms may indeed be needed and I will bring all stakeholders together for a full discussion of this issue in hopes of finding other new solutions.

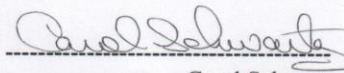

Carol Schwartz

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

Yes. The D.C. Center should be a vital resource for connecting our LGBT population to city services and building a strong network of support, especially for vulnerable youth and seniors.

As you know, the Center originally submitted a bid for space in the Reeves Center in 2012 at a time the facility was in need of a street-level tenant. While that application was rejected in favor of a restaurant that never materialized, the city allowed The D.C. Center to resubmit its bid which was approved. The Center then signed a 15-year lease with a starting base rent of \$4,000 per month, with an annual increase of 2.7 percent. As part of the deal for its space in the Reeves Center, The D.C. Center offered \$30,000 to renovate the space, and managed to get several pro bono services from contractors, as well as other donations to support the move and develop the space. The contributions of so many in our community toward enlivening this space has been a benefit to the city and the public use of the building.

While I believe that much further examination must occur before any swap of a public asset such as the Reeves Center in the development of the proposed soccer stadium, the D.C. Center has reportedly been a good tenant and opportunities for its relocation should be considered if the building were to close.


Carol Schwartz

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.

Biography and Record

My commitment to the civil rights and equality of LGBT people has been long-standing. I began my career on the Board of Education in 1974 and soon after had Board of Education rules passed that forbade discrimination against gay and lesbian teachers and other personnel within the school system. This commitment continued during my four terms on the D.C. Council (1985-1989; 1997-2009) and through my deep volunteer community involvement.

While I have not been in elected office since 2009, I have continued to give of my "time, talent and treasure" to make the world better for LGBT people in our city and elsewhere. My time out of office has been used well to support various causes, including serving as a Regional Co-Chair of PFLAG's 30th Anniversary Celebration in 2013.

My career on the D.C. Council came to end after I was targeted for defeat because of my sponsorship and shepherding "Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008" into law. I am especially proud of the impact this bill has had and will have in the lives of many low-wage LGBT people as well as others across our city who work as janitors, shop clerks, office assistants and other jobs that provided no benefits. Thus, it is not my fault that I did not get to continue to directly serve your community and other constituents.

Had I been on the Council, I would have introduced, sponsored and voted for recently passed LGBT-related legislation. Though I have not been able to take action on a legislative level over the last few years, I believe it is particularly notable that I took actions over decades and early on, including the 1970s, when the fight was often harder and going against the tide.

In addition to my career in public service and in volunteer work, I am also proud to be the mother of three children (all of whom only attended the D.C. Public Schools), who share the same values of respect and equality for LGBT people: two daughters, one of whom is married to a woman, and a son.


RECORD

As a member of the Board of Education in the 1970s, helped to ban employment discrimination of teachers and other DCPS personnel based on sexual orientation

Volunteered for 17 years at the Whitman-Walker Clinic, where I was elected to its Board beginning very early in the AIDS crisis, and was elected Vice President for one year

Resigned from 2004 delegation to the Republican National Convention after President Bush expressed his support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage

Was instrumental in ensuring removal of the congressional rider banning gay and lesbian adoptions


Carol Schwartz

Have been an active proponent of needle exchange programs, including lobbying Congress to end its prohibition on spending our own local funds on needle exchange programs

Helped to establish PreventionWorks!, a needle exchange program which had to operate entirely on private donations, after Congress stopped allowing local funding, and in actuality, was its first donor

Introduced and passed the legislation that prohibited the harassment of students based on sexual orientation in 2000

Identified and provided additional funding for the Office of Human Rights

Helped establish the Housing Production Trust Fund and co-sponsored and voted for inclusionary zoning to expand the supply of affordable housing across the city (the lack of which affects many residents in the city including those in the LGBTQ community)

Spoke out against effort to exempt transgender individuals from certain protections under the D.C. Human Rights Act

Expanded domestic partnership rights including co-introducing the "Omnibus Real Property Amendment Act of 2007," the "Domestic Partnership Police and Fire Amendment Act of 2008," the "Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Act of 2008," and voted in favor of other bills to expand those rights

Co-sponsored medical marijuana legislation and lobbied Congress to stop hold-up of law

Was a six-year member of the Board of Directors of the Safe Haven Outreach Ministry, a service provider for low-income, homeless, and indigent adults who are substance abusers living with HIV/AIDS and/or mental health challenges

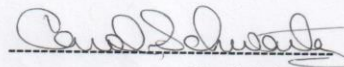
Personally contributed thousands of dollars over the years to LGBT advocacy and health causes

Shepherded through "Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008" into law

Tried to make the Republican Party a "big tent" but finally left the Party in 2013 largely because of long frustration over the Party's rigid socially conservative stances on women's health and LGBT rights

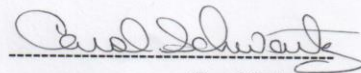
Been a member of PFLAG for decades as a friend, long before I knew that would qualify in every category

Was a Regional Co-Chair of PFLAG's 30th Anniversary Celebration (2013)


Carol Schwartz

Relevant Honors

Trusted Public Servant Award – Safe Haven Outreach Ministry (1997)
Excellence in Leadership Award – National Log Cabin Republicans (2000)
National Capital Area Leadership Award -- Human Rights Campaign (2002)
Best Straight Ally - Washington Blade Readers Editors & Readers (2003)
Best Straight Ally - Washington Blade Readers (2004)
Best Straight Ally – Washington Blade (2006)
Local Hero Female – Washington Blade (2008)


Carol Schwartz