

**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
2015 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates**

HOME RULE

1. If Congress acts to block recent bills enacted by the District to repeal the Armstrong Amendment and to prohibit conversion therapy for minors, will you speak out during your campaign in defense of these bills, and if elected will you stand with your colleagues against congressional meddling?

Yes, I support DC's legislation. Medical and Mental health professionals agree that conversion therapy is quackery. I am a licensed medical professional and as such I can't support a conversion therapy, it is as bad as giving someone shock therapy thinking you are going to cure their mental illness. Young people who are LGBT need our love and support, not blame.

FAMILIES

2. Will you support Bill 21-16, the Collaborative Reproduction Amendment Act of 2015, to legalize and regulate surrogacy agreements?

Yes, I support bill 21-16

HEALTH

3. If you are assigned to the Committee on Health and Human Services, what will you do to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services?

If I am on the Committee of Health and Human Services, I will work to ensure adequate funding for those agencies. I will work with the LGBT and medical communities to assure that services are delivered in a professional and client-oriented manner. I will work to introduce complimentary medicine such as acupuncture to assist and address patients who suffer from pain, depression, nausea and other side effects that can be caused by medication. And I will work to address the needs of the families and caregivers to provide a holistic approach of wellness for all parties involved.

4. Will you support legislation establishing a regulatory framework to set LGBT cultural competency standards for healthcare providers?

Yes. I am a healthcare professional. As such I know how important it is to have health professionals trained in cultural competency.

5. 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 am working with and a member of the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM) where practitioners and supporters serve to advance the profession and practice of acupuncture and alternative medicine through education, occupational resources, media support, and legislative advocacy in our commitment to facilitate access to the highest quality of healthcare in the United States. I believe in the integration of both traditional or western medicine and oriental medicine to support the health and well being of people.

JUDICIARY

6. If you are assigned to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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?

Absolutely. We need to assure that we are protecting the LGBT from hate crimes. That means we need data.

7. Will you support Bill 21-38, the Death with Dignity Act of 2015?

I support the Death with Dignity Act. As a licensed Acupuncturist, I know we can provide comfort care to patients in need.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Will you push to establish a project to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including transgender people?

Yes. I certainly will push for hiring offers of LGBT community.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

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

Yes. I am particularly interested in helping all seniors with housing assistance and services that will allow aging citizens to stay at home.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

10. 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 be allowed to patronize adult-oriented businesses.

In terms of adult oriented businesses we tend to think about two types of Businesses: ABC establishments with nude dancing licenses and retails stores that sell sexually oriented merchandise.

Dc currently limits the number and location of nude dancing ABC licenses. The owners of existing licenses consequently can make large profits.

All ABC establishments are regulated by ABRA. Such regulation is necessary to protect peace and quiet in our residential neighborhoods. I am open to increasing the number of nude dancing licenses.

Regarding sex shops, zoning laws have to be protected. Sex shops probably should not be located too close to schools. But I don't think the Government should limit sex shops for reasons of prudence. My intuition is that Internet retailing is making it harder for such retail establishments to survive. But for those that do exist, we need to treat those retailers as the legitimate businesses that they are. Our government agencies should be customer-friendly, and all legal businesses should receive top-flight government assistance from government agencies, such as DCRA and OTR.