

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

HOME RULE

1. I support the Council repealing the Armstrong Amendment that was discriminatory. Speaking out against Congress' discriminatory acts is a must. The prohibition of conversion therapy is the right thing to do because it is an extremely harsh and antiquated way for minors; or adults. It seems to be applied by misunderstanding parents. I would speak out against it. I plan to oppose any "meddling" by Congress. Home Rule is as close to statehood as we are going to get for quite a while. The laws engrossed by the District should be respected, which reflects the will of the people, not overruled, amended or altered by Congress. Any attack on the free will of the District is unacceptable.

FAMILIES

2. Yes, I would support Bill 21-16 to legalize and regulate surrogacy because it would provide a process done in a safer environment.
3. If I am assigned to the Committee on Health and Human Service, 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 hold a roundtable with the persons most likely exposed to HIV/AIDS to improve any legislation that is currently in affect. I want to introduce legislation to make testing routine without additional paperwork, and shall include funding for counseling and referrals to treatment facilities for those testing positive. This may go against the CDC's recommendation, but it is necessary to prevent further cases of HIV/AIDS. In doing so, a person's privacy should never be compromised. I will support continued funding of targeted substance abuse treatment, moreover, I would support funding for preventative measures, which includes ads, brochures and commercials to educate the public. Additionally, funding for male and female condom distribution would continue. Thus far, in Ward 8, the locations for free condoms have been plentiful. I would propose increasing funds to provide more off site [off hospital campus] mental health care.
4. Yes, I would support legislation establishing a regulatory framework to set LGBT cultural competency standards for healthcare providers. Health and healthcare continue to be an unresolved issue. The lack of culturally competent providers is a significant barrier to quality health care for many LGBT people, particularly those who identify as transgender. The government, insurance companies and medical providers should indeed upgrade themselves and address the LGBT community health needs by providing information on its website to inform LGBT persons of insurance comparison charts that treat same sex partners. Similar to any other unfamiliar medical area, doctors need to educate themselves on the specific needs of the LGBT patients, stop being skittish on addressing HIV/AIDS testing, counseling and treatment. Establishing a regulatory framework to set LGBT cultural competency standards for healthcare providers will best assist doctors in following the Hippocrates Oath, "I will remember that I remain a member of society, with

special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.”

I would definitely include LGBT knowledgeable members and health care organizations to weigh in on health care issue involving the LGBT community.

5. Yes, I would support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. Please refer to my answer to #3. With any group of people with medical issues, the health care providers have an obligation to treat them to the best of their ability ... [pursuant to the Hippocrates Oath] “I will not be ashamed to say “I know not,” nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery. The proper care to the LGBT community should not be stagnant because the funds are not adequate, therefore, to save lives, funds must be specified.

JUDICIARY

6. Yes, if I am assigned to the Committee on the Judiciary, I would press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics that would ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data. The funds would cover sensitivity training towards any minority group, especially transgenders. LGBT communities seem to be geographically divided, whereas, they are not as prominent in Ward 8. Each police district has a Citizens Advisory Council; LGBT issues should be on the agenda. As Council member, I plan to have roundtables with LGBT members in Ward 8.
7. I would support Bill 21-38, the Death with Dignity Act of 2015, however, here is where religion and state should be separate. In reviewing Councilmember Mary Cheh's bill, it seems to cover all aspects of any questionable concern. It gives the person full rights and responsibility to his or her life/death.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Yes, I would push to establish a project to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including transgender people. I believe the pursuit of happiness includes being gainfully employed. A person should not be discriminated against if he or she is qualified for a position and has good work ethics.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

9. I would support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing, however, in this case, I would not separate the LGBT from others unless they had special needs. I would treat all homeless the same, except give more attention to elderly, children and the disabled. I would support improved services for all homeless people. I would push to increase the budget for homelessness to provide more shelters for single persons. I would propose an increased budget to fund S.O.M.E. to have more facilities for single adults. The resident has a furnished room and share a kitchen and bathroom, with a 24 hour desk service. I would strongly push for LGBT persons to be hired to work at shelters. Regarding the transgender homeless people, I would require extra monitoring for their protection.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

10. To defend the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriate licensed and zoned businesses to provide adult-oriented entertainment would be a question of the location. It seems that these types of facilities were shut down because they became a neighborhood nuisance. Even the appropriately licensed and zoned businesses may become a problem. However, if this is what is being proposed, Adult Entertainment ... Any exhibition of any motion pictures, live performance, display or dance of any type, which has a significant or substantial portion of such performance or is distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on, any actual or simulated performance of specified sexual activities, or exhibition and viewing of specified anatomical areas, as defined herein, appearing unclothed, or the removal of articles of clothing to reveal specified anatomical areas, and perhaps if it is not a "matter of right" and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the community within 200 feet of the facility supports it, then let it be, if it is near a residential area. The best location would not be near a school or church. It should be in a business/commercial or industrial area.

Actions that I have taken that help illustrate my record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

It was regrettable that the Ward 8 Councilmember voted against marriage equality. This does not reflect the views of all Ward 8 residents. When it comes to the LGBT issues, I want to be more of a thermostat instead of a thermometer.

1. I have been a member of Stein for approximately 10 years.
2. I have mediated bullying of LGBT youth. I have served as the second vice president of the Ward Eight Democrats under the presidency of Philip Pannell and alongside Brad Lewis. I supported Brad Lewis for the Democratic State Committee. I have a great relationship with Michael Sainte-Andress. I supported Philip Pannell for State Board of Education in Ward 8, 2012 and 2014. I supported Philip Pannell for Shadow Representative and the Democratic State Committee.

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/looselips/2014/07/09/the-little-known-election-thats-about-to-cost-the-district-300000/>

3. The PAC in which I was a member, Ward Eight Neighbors (WEN), endorsed Philip Pannell for Ward 8 State Board of Education.

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

The endorsement states "*Ward Eight Neighbors (WEN), in an in-depth deliberation on June 24, 2014 regarding Tierra Jolly and Philip Pannell, the two remaining candidates for the Special Election for Ward Eight State Board of Education, has unanimously voted to endorse Philip Pannell.*"

WEN is a group of civic-minded residents who came together to devise a format to select and support the best person for the Ward 8 elections. The board of WEN consists of Ronald Williams, Chairman, Rev. Anthony Motley, Treasurer, Sandra "S.S." Seegars, Executive Secretary, Stephen Slaughter, Carol Casperson and Anthony Muhammad.

4. In 2006, I supported Philip Pannell for Shadow Senator.
5. A family friend from childhood contracted AIDS. His family was not as supportive as they should have been. Once I found out, I assisted him in every way I could. I took him to his doctor's appointments, helped him with his meals and helped him to get around when he was too weak to walk and was having a problems breathing due to pneumonia. He ultimately succumbed to AIDS. At the funeral, his family could not thank me enough for helping him. Although this person was not gay, this shows that I would assist anyone without fear of contraction, regardless to his or her sexual orientation.
6. Without fear of being ridiculed, I assisted a gay couple in removing unsavory neighbors from their block.
7. I participated in LGBT issues and protests led by Wayne Turner and Steve Michael.
8. I walked in the funeral procession of Steve Michael, whereas, we ended up in front of the White House.

I ask that you to forgive me for using Steve's death in this manner, but I do so to express my sincerity for all mankind regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, and socioeconomic status.

This was the most significant march/protest in which I have ever been involved. Walking from Freedom Plaza to the White House in the funeral procession behind Steve Michael's body in a casket was sad but inspiring. Sharing this time with Wayne Turner as he said goodbye to his beloved partner cannot be described. It was a giant step for the LGBT community and any person who suffered from HIV/AIDS. It made me wonder how the president could let this happen when he had the power to advance the research on HIV/AIDS, including the needle exchange program. It made me realize that being of the LGBT community should not be an issue when it comes to health and saving lives. In the years to come, I realized that the everyday person has answers to many of the problems in the community, if only the elected officials would listen. Steve's life was short, but his death was not in vain. I had some fun times with Steve. May he RIP.



Steve Michael, founder ACT UP/Washington DC, died of AIDS complications on Monday, May 25, 1998 at 11:12_am. Michael's partner of seven years, Wayne Turner, gave the order to disconnect Michael from life support after his condition severely worsened early Monday morning. Michael had spent almost four weeks in the intensive care unit at Washington Hospital Center for treatment of AIDS related pneumonia. He was 42 years old.



A political funeral was held on Thursday, June 4, 1998 in front of the White House at 12:30 p.m. Turner had made arrangements with federal authorities to hold Michael's funeral, which was his last White House protest.



For Steve Michael, One Final Act of Protest, Activist's Funeral Makes A Stop at the White House Friday, June 5, 1998.



ACT UP and other AIDS activists accuse Clinton of going back on promises they say he made in his presidency's early days to make fighting the disease a priority of his administration. They also criticize Clinton for not being sufficiently aggressive about AIDS education programs in schools or providing the poor with guaranteed health care

access. His decision against creating a federally funded needle exchange program for drug addicts also was denounced on Thursday.

<http://www.actupny.org/reports/SteveMichael.html>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/perspective/sets/357792/>

9. One Page at a Time Newsletter,
Sandra "S.S." Seegars, editor, articles on Steve Michael

**One Page at a Time Newsletter
For and About Ward 8**

Vol. 3, No. 3
Issued Quarterly

October 1997
Editor: Sandra "SS" Seegars
202-561-6616

WEED OR RX

Citizens Protecting Medical Patients and Providers from Marijuana Prosecution led by former Ward 6 City Council candidate, Steve Michael, have to collect approximately 16,000 signatures to put Initiative 57 on the ballot. Initiative 57 will let the voters decide if medical patients and providers should be protected from prosecution if marijuana is used for medicinal purposes. They must gather signatures from 5% of the registered voters that includes 5% from 5 or more wards.

The claim is that marijuana alleviates symptoms of AIDS, such as nausea, vomiting, and deadly AIDS wasting syndrome; side effects of radiation and chemotherapy in cancer treatment; and glaucoma. They say expensive triple-combination therapies don't work when patients can't hold their pills down. If you have had a loved one suffer from AIDS or cancer, and wished it was something you could do to help them live longer, with less suffering, now is the time to be introduced to marijuana as a legal pain killer. Marijuana in its natural state has been proven beneficial for reducing agonizing suffering. Only a couple more thousand signatures are needed.

To help with this giant step in medicine call ACT UP 202-547-9404, 202-547-9404

**One Page at a Time Newsletter
For and About Ward 8**

Vol. 4, No. 3
Issued Quarterly

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Editor: Sandra "S.S." Seegars
202-561-6616

MICHAEL ROW YOUR BOAT ASHORE

Steve Michael, national activist, succumbed to the harsh effects that come along with AIDS.

Michael was the director of AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP); ran for president in 1992 and 1996; strong critic of President Clinton for not keeping his promises to fight AIDS; and ran for the Ward 6 Council seat. Michael led the campaign, Initiative 57 and Initiative 59, Medical Marijuana. 57 fell short by about 800 signatures. He immediately reinstated Initiative 59, and began gathering signatures again.

Michael deterioration seemed to have happened over night. While he was hospitalized, his partner, Wayne Turner took over the initiative. Michael's funeral was held on Pennsylvania Ave. NW, in front of the White House. There was no interference by the White House security or the Metropolitan Police. The media attendance was so heavy that it almost outnumbered the 100 or so who attended the funeral.

They gathered at Freedom Plaza, 13 and Pa. Ave. NW, and walked, rolling the casket, a half a mile to the White House. In an unrelated, yet related, AIDS story, Clinton administration said needle exchange programs can help curb the AIDS epidemic, but refuses to allow federal money to be spent on a needle exchange program.

If more clarity is needed, do not hesitate to call. GLAA is cordially invited to come to Ward 8, whereas, the Stein forum will be here in Ward 8.