

**LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
2009 CITY CONTROLLER PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name: **Alan Butkovitz**

Office Sought: **Controller**

Date: **4/5/09**

1) What is your experience with the LGBT community both generally and/or professionally? If elected how would you support and participate in LGBT based events and organizations?

**I have worked with many members of the LGBT community both as a legislator and as Philadelphia City Controller. As City Controller, I have hired members of the community to work in significant positions within my staff. If re-elected, I will continue to reach out to the LGBT community as well as other minority communities and groups throughout the city.**

2) How have you advanced, through professional and personal achievements, the rights of the LGBT community, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities?

**I conducted what A. Bruce Crawly, founder of the Philadelphia African American Chamber of Commerce called a "groundbreaking" examination of obstacles hindering the full participation in city contracts and city work for minority, women and disabled-owned businesses. I made a number of concrete and specific recommendations to remove the obstacles.**

3) Do you support the rights of LGBT people to the following:

a. Marriage?

**I believe same-sex couples should be afforded the same rights as married opposite-sex couples. I believe that at this time, the best method for attaining those rights is through civil unions.**

b. Civil Unions?

**Yes**

c. Domestic Partnership?

**Yes. I support local government and private sector entities providing support to same-sex couples through domestic partnerships.**

d. Second-parent adoption?

**Yes. All children deserve loving families, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity of a parent.**

e. Protection from workplace discrimination?

**Yes.**

f. Protection from housing discrimination?

**Yes.**

g. Protection from acts of violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?

**Yes.**

4) Do you consider transgender rights a civil rights issue? Explain your answer.

**Yes. Members of the transgender community face significant discrimination in their daily lives. It is my understanding that there is discrimination against Transgender individuals even within the LGBT community. All people deserve equal protection under the law and a right to live their lives free of discrimination.**

5) Do you have any openly LGBT members of your staff? What will you do to make your office a safe place for openly LGBT staff members?

**Yes, I have hired members of the LGBT community. It is my practice to hire the best person for the job, regardless of race, religion, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.**

6) Given the current state of the economy what would you do specifically to minimize the impact on Philadelphians?

**As the City faces growing deficits, I will continue to focus on eliminating as much waste, fraud and mismanagement as possible, in order to cut costs and save taxpayers money. Since taking office, I tripled the number of performance audits conducted by the Controller's office each year from two to six - for an overall total of 31 performance and special audits that have identified over \$413 million in savings and new revenue for the city.**

**I forced the Philadelphia School District to conduct an internal audit that revealed a \$172 million deficit in the face of their denying the existence of a deficit. I exposed and stopped a highly questionable no-bid contract arrangement with an "out-of-state" contractor who was given a rent free center city condominium and sports car as part of her compensation package – as well as having the School District reimburse her for weekly flights home to Chicago.**

**I also developed a long-range plan to protect employee pensions and save Philadelphia more than \$300 million over the next five years. Mayor Michael Nutter and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* both enthusiastically endorsed my plan, and the *Philadelphia Daily News* called it "innovative," and "a classic example of the kind of market expertise that we need in a controller."**

7) Given the financial state of the city how will you prioritize the funding of LGBT issues and groups?

**While the Controller does not have any authority over how the government allocates and spends money, I will continue to use the powers of the Controller's Office to provide necessary oversight of the city finances to make sure that taxpayers' dollars are being spent properly. I will also consult with members of the LGBT community to make sure that programs and government spending important to the community are analyzed by my office to provide necessary oversight.**

8) Have you ever belonged to any organizations, associations or clubs that prohibit or limit its membership on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity?

**No.**

9) Do you support a woman's right to choose?

**Yes.**

10) How would your office be more transparent than the previous administration?

**Within 30 days of having been sworn into office in January of 2006, my office put all campaign finance reports on line for public inspection and continues to do so. We also maintain a comprehensive website which posts all of our audits on line within hours of their release.**