

LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
OUTFRONT! PAC

*2008 PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE*

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Signature:



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Office you are seeking: U.S. Presidency

**Community**

Who advises you on LGBT issues?

**I have created “LGBT Americans for Hillary,” my national LGBT steering committee. It is chaired by U. S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin and includes more than 130 openly LGBT elected officials, community, and issue leaders. They provide me with advice, counsel, and feedback on issues of concern to the LGBT community. In addition, within one month of announcing my candidacy, I hired a full-time National Director of LGBT Outreach to help me reach out to the LGBT community and to advise me on LGBT issues. I also have a press secretary who works to ensure that I have a presence in the LGBT-targeted press.**

Do you have or have you had any openly LGBT employees on your campaign staff or at your place of business?

**Yes. In addition to my National Director of LGBT Outreach, there are openly LGBT employees at all levels of my campaign, including my National Field and Political Director, my National Director of Operations, my Ohio State Director, and my California Communications Director.**

Do you support the continued and/or expanded funding and support of LGBT community events, such as the various pride events sponsored by organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area?

**I am proud to have participated in many LGBT community events as First Lady and Senator. I have marched in New York's Gay Pride parade four times since 2000; I attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New York Human Rights Campaign Dinner in 2004; and I was proud to attend and speak at the Gay Men's Health Crisis 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception last year. As President, I will continue to support and participate in LGBT community events, including marching in a Gay Pride parade.**

### **Civil Rights**

For Federal Candidates: Do you support enactment of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (HR-3685) providing employment protections to gay, lesbian and bisexual but not transgender employees, or do you support a more inclusive bill similar to HR 2015 that includes transgender individuals in these protections from discrimination? Please explain your answer.

**I strongly support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that includes protections for transgender individuals, and I will fight to have that be the version that is signed into law when I am President. I have been a co-sponsor of the ENDA throughout my tenure in the Senate, and I look forward to signing this bill into law when I am President. It is inconceivable to me that people who work hard and do a good job every day can still be fired because of who they love. It's unfair, it's un-American, and I will put a stop to it.**

For Statewide Candidates: Do you support PA-HB-1400 or PA-SB-761 which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination of gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals in employment, housing and public accommodation based on their sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community, and I will ensure that my administration strongly enforces anti-discrimination laws.**

Do you support the City of Philadelphia's actions regarding the Boy Scouts of America Cradle of Liberty Council's occupancy of city-owned property, and would you support similar actions towards other groups or organizations determined to be in violation of the Fair Practices Ordinance.

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community.**

As progressive political organizations, one of our principles is the support of reproductive freedom. What is your position on a women's right to choose? Do you support the continued enforcement of the Roe v. Wade decision?

**I am a strong advocate for a woman's right to choose and the Roe v. Wade decision. I believe that every woman has the right to make the most personal of life decisions with her family and her doctor, and that abortion should be safe, legal and rare. As Senator, I have**

**fought against the relentless and insidious right-wing attempts to undermine a woman's right to choose. I voted against President Bush's Supreme Court nominees, Samuel Alito, Jr. and John Roberts, because I believed that they posed a very significant threat to the future of Roe v. Wade. As President, I will nominate justices who share my view that the constitution protects a woman's right to privacy. I have also worked to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in America by spearheading legislation to expand access to contraception and sex education, and will continue that commitment as President.**

Do you support extending the right to marry to same-sex couples?

**The question of marriage is one that historically has been left to the states. I am proud that I worked closely with LGBT community to develop a smart strategy that defeated the Federal Marriage Amendment. I strongly believe that we need to ensure that same-sex couples have the rights, responsibilities, and benefits that married couples have at the federal level. I believe civil unions are the best way to achieve that.**

If you do not support same-sex marriage would you support extending all the rights and responsibilities that exist for heterosexual married couples to same-sex couples?

**Yes, I believe gay and lesbian couples should have all the same rights, responsibilities, and benefits as all Americans. As President, I will work to ensure that all Americans in committed relationships have equal benefits – from health insurance and life insurance, property rights, and more – through civil unions.**

Many of the civil rights the LGBT community is pursuing are decided at the state level. What legislation would you introduce to promote the rights of the LGBT community? What other ways would you work to insure that LGBT Pennsylvanians are treated equally?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community.**

### **Anti-Violence**

What education, training, policies and procedures would you put in place to assure that members of the LGBT community are treated fairly with respect to the law and in a protective, respectful way during interactions with police officers throughout Pennsylvania (by both local and state police)?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community.**

Would you require reporting of acts of intimidation, aggression or violence which were thought to have been perpetrated based on a person's perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity? Specifically, what processes would you put in place to ensure active investigation, prosecution and punishment of such hate related crimes committed against people because of their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity?

**I believe that hate crimes undermine the fundamental principle upon which our nation was founded, that all men and women are equal. I will strengthen law enforcement and prosecution of discriminatory acts of violence against gays, lesbians, and transgender individuals. As President, I will sign into law the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which I co-sponsored and recently passed in the Senate. It would expand federal hate-crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. I will continue to fight for this when I am President.**

**Moreover, I believe that we all have a responsibility to confront intolerance. When I am President, I will make a strong commitment to fully enforcing our anti-discrimination laws. My administration will restore the historic role of the Department of Justice and return the civil rights division to its original mission as a body that vigorously enforces people's civil rights, instead of ignoring them. I will also appoint an attorney general who cares about the rule of law and Supreme Court Justices who understand and respect our Constitution's civil rights guarantees.**

### **Healthcare**

How would you act to assure proper sensitivity training and education for public health professionals, administration and staff as related to treatment of members of the LGBT?

**I believe that it is important that health care professionals are trained to understand the specific health issues members of the LGBT community face. Different patients have different needs and require different kinds of care. That's why health care providers must provide culturally sensitive, quality care that is respectful of a patient's background. It is absolutely critical that members of the LGBT community do not feel discriminated against in a doctor's office or a hospital – they should feel safe being open with a health care provider. Transgender people, for example, face some of the biggest health care obstacles because some health care professionals are not aware of their physical and mental needs. At some hospitals, LGBT domestic partners are not given the same visitation access as do spouses and next-of-kin. As a part of my universal health care plan, I will provide federal funding for programs that teach and train health care professionals to understand, respect, and treat patients of all backgrounds.**

Do you support funding for needle exchange programs?

**Yes. There is a robust body of research that demonstrates the ways in which syringe-exchange programs can prevent HIV and result in improved health outcomes for injecting**

**drug users. The CDC has concluded that needle-exchange programs have been an effective way to link hard-to-reach at-risk people with screening and treatment. Other studies have shown a reduction – as high as 80 percent – in risky behavior and a reduction of 30 percent or more in HIV among IV drug users. Research also suggests that these programs do not result in increased drug use. Looking at this scientific evidence, I believe federal funds should be used to support needle-exchange programs. I have long believed in evidence-based decision-making and when it comes to combating the HIV/AIDS crisis, I think we should try tools that have been shown to have an impact.**

What public health education programs would you advocate to foster a more complete understanding of the unique health needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?

**As I mentioned above, I think it is necessary that our health care professionals receive education and training to provide quality care to members of the LGBT community. I will provide federal funding for these kinds of programs. I will also support comprehensive sex education and HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs that emphasize delaying sexual activity and protecting oneself against unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease.**

Would you support condom distribution in Pennsylvania's jails, detention centers, correctional facilities or prisons?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community, and I will take steps to better understand how HIV/AIDS is transmitted in prisons and to address this problem.**

Would you support a state healthcare plan that offers sex reassignment surgery and other gender identity health coverage to state employees?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community. As a presidential candidate, I have proposed the American Health Choices Plan, which would offer to individuals the same health care plans that are available to Members of Congress and federal employees.**

### **Family**

Would you support a statewide bill that requires companies that obtain state contracts to offer domestic partnership benefits to their employees?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community. I am a co-sponsor of legislation that would make domestic partnership benefits available to federal employees.**

LGBT youth are sometimes rejected by their biological families or their foster families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. How would you devise and implement a statewide plan for the child welfare system to address the particular issues and needs of the youth and their foster families?

**I believe in caring for and loving children for who they are, and as President, I will continue to be an advocate for all children, including LGBT youth. This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for statewide office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community.**

Do you think LGBT adults should be encouraged to become foster/adoptive parents to children in Pennsylvania who need homes?

**Yes. I have been an advocate for children for more than 35 years. I believe children fare best when they are raised in a home with loving, supportive, and responsible parents – and we should not ban any one from becoming a foster or adoptive parents solely on the basis of his or her sexual orientation. Children living in foster care are some of the most disadvantaged children in America. They are much more likely to drop out of high school, to become teen parents, to perform poorly academically, and to repeat the cycle of abuse. I believe we can – and should – be more aggressive at recruiting and retaining prospective foster and adoptive parents for children who have been abused and neglected and cannot be returned to their families. According to a report released by UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute, an estimated two million LGBT people have considered adoption but less than one-fifth of adoption agencies attempt to recruit adoptive parents from the LGBT community. The report concluded that LGBT people are an underutilized pool of potential adoptive parents.**

Will you act to offer domestic violence shelter services to gay men?

**I have long been a strong advocate for victims of domestic violence, and I believe there is more we can do. We should provide more beds in emergency shelters; access to longer term affordable housing; and job training or education assistance to enable survivors to become economically independent. It also means providing mental health care to help them deal with the trauma they have experienced and providing special care for children who witness domestic violence. It is important that we break the cycle of victimization. We have learned more about domestic violence in the past 10 years than ever before, but there is still more we need to learn and understand so that we can continue to develop new methods in confronting the problem. We need to continue to improve and expand the services we offer, including encouraging domestic shelters to be aware of and meet the specific needs of members of the LGBT community.**

Will you act to offer programs in homeless shelters to address the unique needs of transgendered people?

**Homelessness is a crisis and it can be that much more devastating when it comes about because of rejection by one’s family or society, such as is sometimes the case with**

**transgender individuals. I believe that it is important to provide shelter to all Americans who are homeless and to help meet the unique needs of transgender and LGBT individuals. Members of the LGBT community sometimes fear that they will face violence and harassment in homeless shelters and end up on the streets. Staff members at homeless shelters should be aware of these concerns and work to ensure that the environment is safe for members of the LGBT community.**

### **Youth**

The Philadelphia School District has in place Policy 102 which prohibits discrimination against faculty and students on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently this policy is not enforced uniformly across the district. What steps would you take to help insure uniform implementation of Policy 102? What was your response to the uproar regarding including, “Gay History Month,” on the official School District calendar?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community.**

Do you support reality and community-based school sex education, HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs that are an alternative to abstinence only education? If yes, would it include the following? (Please check all that apply).

- A) Birth Control**
- B) Safer Sex education**
- C) Condom distribution**
- D) Different sexual orientations**
- E) Gender identity**

**I believe that all of these issues should be addressed in comprehensive sex education and HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs that emphasize delaying sexual activity and protecting oneself against unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease. I have championed the Prevention First Act, which would provide the first dedicated stream of federal funding for medically accurate, comprehensive sex education. We must have a comprehensive prevention approach that incorporates the entirety of the “ABC” message: abstinence, being faithful to one’s partner, and condom use. When it comes to HIV/AIDS prevention, information and knowledge are crucial and effective in keeping people healthy.**

Would you introduce legislation to provide statewide financial support of community centers such as the Attic or other organizations serving youth?

**I believe we should support youth organizations that provide valuable information and resources to help our young people succeed. As Senator, I helped secure more than \$300,000 in FY08 for the Gay Men’s Health Crisis Center in New York to combat meth and to provide basic needs – such as meals, housing, access to care, mental health counseling, education and workforce development – to HIV-positive people. As President, I**

**will continue to support community centers and organizations that serve LGBT youth as well as all young people.**

Studies show that LGBT students experience more harassment and violence at school than straight students. LGBT students are more likely to cut school or drop out because they are afraid for their safety. How would you propose to address the violence against LGBT youth?

**According to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, four out of five LGBT students hear homophobic remarks often in their schools and 39 percent of LGBT students report being verbally or physically assaulted. Schools should develop anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies, provide trainings to both staff and students about bullying and harassment, and help students understand and respect one another in the school community. As I mentioned earlier, I will, as President, sign into law the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act because I believe that hate crimes undermine the fundamental principle upon which our nation was founded. I will also support efforts to make schools safer places for LGBT teens.**

### **Seniors**

Would you create establishing programs and services to address the unique needs of LGBT Senior Citizens? If so, what type of services do you envision, and how would you propose to fund and implement these services?

**According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, currently there are an estimated three million LGBT elders in the United States. By 2030, that number will nearly double. These seniors have specific needs, such as inadequate access to health care, housing, long-term care and other services because of discrimination. There have been reports of LGBT seniors facing hostility and, sometimes, violence at nursing homes from their peers or staff members. That is unacceptable and these practices must end. A few months ago, I put forth an agenda to help seniors and their families that includes specific proposals to improve the quality of our nation's nursing homes. I will triple support for nursing home ombudsmen programs to protect consumers of long-term care; direct the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to assist state consumer advocates and prosecutors to tackle persistent abuses and new challenges in the long-term care industry; reversing the inexcusable policy of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of withholding information on poor-performing nursing homes and giving seniors full access to usable data on nursing homes, including data on nursing home ownership structures; and strengthen our nursing and direct care workforce with a national system of background checks for long-term care workers and \$125 million investment in Workforce Improvement Programs. Under my plan, older Americans, including LGBT seniors, will be safer in nursing homes and will receive quality care.**

### **Economic Development**

Would you support a requirement that all state departments have specific recruitment plans for members of the LGBT community?

**When I am President, I will ensure that my administration is as diverse as our great country. I will appoint and nominate qualified and experienced people of all backgrounds, including those from the LGBT community. Throughout my life – from when I was First Lady in Arkansas to First Lady in the White House to a member of the U.S. Senator to now a candidate for President – I have surrounded myself with people from all different backgrounds and I have benefited tremendously from them. I have put together perhaps the most diverse presidential campaign in American history, and I am committed to having the most diverse administration in our history. I will ensure that our government – in the White House, throughout all departments, and on the courts – truly reflects America’s diverse backgrounds and values. Many members of the LGBT community were part of my husband’s administration including: Roberta Achtenberg, former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; Eldie Acheson, former U.S. Assistant Attorney General; Q. Todd Dickinson, former Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; Fred Hochberg, former Deputy then Acting Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration; Bruce Lehman, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks; Julian Potter, former Special Assistant to President as Liaison to the Gay and Lesbian Community.**

How would you work to assure that LGBT owned and operated businesses receive equal opportunities in business development, lending practices or government grants for economic revitalization?

**We need the contributions of LGBT Americans, and all Americans, in order to keep America’s economy growing, continue job growth, and maintain our place as the entrepreneurial capital of the world. Since my time in Arkansas, I have worked to expand access to capital and credit for small businesses, and I have sought to build public-private partnerships that nurture new businesses and support entrepreneurs like innovative investment strategies and micro-enterprises. As President, I will develop and execute a strategy to ensure that LGBT businesses receive equal opportunities to compete for federal contracts, Small Business Association loans, and other forms of financial assistance.**

Do you support state departments and quasi-agencies including the LGBT community in their diversity hiring plans including media advertising and job fairs within the community?

**This is an issue best addressed by a candidate running for state or local office, not federal office. As President, I will continue to be an advocate for the LGBT community and I will encourage all federal agencies to recruit aggressively from the LGBT community.**

Please return by Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> via e-mail to [matt@libertycity.org](mailto:matt@libertycity.org)

Or via mail to:

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