

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

***2008 PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE***

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Office you are seeking: State Representative 186<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**Community**

Who advises you on LGBT issues?

Do you have or have you had any openly LGBT employees on your campaign staff or at your place of business? **(No)**

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? **(Yes)**

**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.

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? **(Yes)**

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. **(Yes)**

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? **(Yes)**

Do you support extending the right to marry to same-sex couples? **(open for discussion)**

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)**

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? ***Legislation that provides anti harassment of Gays and Lesbians within the schools throughout Pennsylvania. In addition, enforce the PA Human Relations Act***

### **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)?

***I would propose including gender equality in Police Sensitivity Training as well as enforce and prosecute misconduct of officers actions based upon a bias or insensitivity.***

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? ***(Yes)***

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? ***Work with the Human relations Commission and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office to enforce and prosecute all hate crimes.***

### **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? ***Ensure educational training regarding the LBGt community within the Department of Public Welfare is reviewed and including in department wide discussions and during the various decision making processes.***

Do you support funding for needle exchange programs? ***(Yes)***

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? ***Collaborate educational forums with such organizations as BEBASHI, Circle of Care, and the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health.***

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

Would you support a state healthcare plan that offers sex reassignment surgery and other gender identity health coverage to state employees? ***(No)***

### **Family**

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

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? ***All state***

*related youth facilities that receive state funding through the Department of Public Welfare should go through a required trainings informing the various departments of the preventive measures in addressing such within the gay and lesbian community; specifically focusing on youth and family.*

Do you think LGBT adults should be encouraged to become foster/adoptive parents to children in Pennsylvania who need homes? **(open for discussion)**

Will you act to offer domestic violence shelter services to gay men?  
**(Yes)**

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

### **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? ***Work with the School District of Philadelphia to enforce city wide implementation. Didn't really have a response. However, I believe particularly in the African American community, the youth needs to be educated in the wholeness of their life style.***

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). **(All)**

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

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

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? ***Propose and enforce strict anti-discrimination policy regardless of race and gender on the school level while also establishing Anti-Harassment & Support Gay & Lesbian Hotline for counseling and to address issues of harassment.***

### **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? ***Assure that seniors have quality medical care as well as protection of spousal benefits and that if they have insurance policies on one another, the policy will be properly executed in the death of one of the spouses.***

**Economic Development**

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

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?

***Track and monitor diversity numbers in state wide yearly progress reports as it relates to economic development.***

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? (*Yes*)

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

Or via mail to:

Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

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