

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

2008 PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name Rob McCord Signature _____ Date 2/25/08
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Office you are seeking State Treasurer

Community

Who advises you on LGBT issues?

A variety of friends including: Society Hill-based Carl Kopfinger, Pittsburgh-based Kris Rust & Janis Williams (former chair and vice chair of Steel City Stonewall Democrats, whom I have been endorsed by), as well as Congressman Barney Frank (an old family friend) and Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus.

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

Yes, both on Capital Hill and in private industry.

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.

N/A - Statewide Candidate.

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 and that legislation is just one of the reasons I am proud to be endorsed by its sponsor, State Representative Dan Frankel.

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?

I am ardently pro-choice, and I believe one of the most important reasons we have to elect a Democratic president is to help appoint judges who will protect our reproductive rights.

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

I agree with Senators Obama and Clinton on this issue. First and foremost, I see this as a civil rights issue and believe it should be treated as such. As a partner in an interracial marriage, I’m acutely conscious that my own marriage would have been illegal in many states when I was born.

I am also eager to get real progress on this matter and I believe the most productive approach is to say that civil unions are a government and legal matter, and marriage is a matter for religious institutions and individual choice. I believe that by using the phrase “civil union” and insisting on absolutely full and equal civil rights, we can finally get progress on this front.

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?

N/A

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?]

As State Treasurer, I would not be able to introduce my own legislation but I envision using the Treasurer’s Office in a manner that allows me to weigh in on various legislative issues, including those pertaining to civil rights. I would also expect to support the initiatives in these areas that are proposed by my friend and ally, Representative Dan Frankel.

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 believe there is a need for increased education and sensitivity training for emergency services personnel. I recognize the importance of this issue and I would look to find ways to make sure

the LGBT community has input in the forming of a set of best practices.

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?

Yes. I am uncertain of how I could directly affect this issue as Treasurer but, as I mentioned before, I envision using this office in a way that allows me to weigh in on legislative and policy issues.

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 would support legislators who are, in turn, supporting regulations and funding to provide educational and sensitivity training in these areas.

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?

I would need to get educated about this. And again, my main role would be to serve as an ally of people who have direct jurisdiction in these areas.

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?

I do not know. My reservation here is that as we make an attempt to make healthcare coverage universal, portable and affordable, we will need to have that coverage avoid any procedures that could be described as either cosmetic or elective. Candidly, the state treasurer is not in a position to govern on these matters but I do not want to "duck" the question. Instead, I would prefer to think it through with appropriate leaders from your community if I am ever in a position to affect this specific policy matter.

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?

I don't believe the State Treasurer has power in these areas, but I would be eager to help address this tragic situation. Please educate me if there is something I can do.

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

Yes.

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?

Here too, I would need to be educated on how the State Treasurer could affect this issue. As to Gay History Month, I think it is good for students to be exposed to historic matters involving discrimination and efforts to combat oppression.

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 - Yes
- B) Safer Sex education - Yes
- C) Condom distribution - Yes
- D) Different sexual orientations - Yes
- E) Gender identity - Yes

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

I do not believe this is within the State Treasurer's duties but I would support this legislation.

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?

I believe that LGBT sensitivity should be included in anti-bullying talks at schools. Bullying should be discouraged on all fronts, but especially when it is motivated by bigotry.

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?

N/A to the Treasurer's Office.

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?

Again, I am not running to be a legislator but on these matters, I would look to be an ally at the state level of Dan Frankel and at the federal level, of US Representative Barney Frank.

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 22nd via e-mail to matt@libertycity.org

Or via mail to:

Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

C/o Matthew Woodcock

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