

**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

Community

Who advises you on LGBT issues? **Ray Murphy, Mike Weiss and Michael Williams**

Do you have or have you had any openly LGBT employees on your campaign staff or at your place of business? **Not Yet**

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 I am a co-sponsor of HB 1400**

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 unapologetically pro choice and will support the continued enforcement of Roe V Wade**

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

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?

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? **I would work to ensure protection for LGBT youth in foster care and better access to healthcare**

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)? **Gender sensitivity training designed by members of 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? **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? **Not sure why those incidents would not be investigated now, I would add that to the list of circumstances to be reviewed by police**

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?

Gender sensitivity training designed by members of the LGBT community which should be given before the job starts

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?

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? **Yes**

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 would seek Liberty cities advice on this one**

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? **I would make it clear that all rules should be enforced uniformly across the district and implement a complaint system to ensure that happens. My response to Gay History Month was that it is no big deal**

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). **Yes**

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

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. LBGT 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? **Sensitivity training for students**

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? **I would need some advice on how to establish those programs**

Economic Development

Would you support a requirement that all state departments have specific recruitment plans for members of the LGBT community? **No because it could have some bad unintended consequences**

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? **I think those anti discrimination policy are already in place**

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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