

PAI Zimmerman

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2013 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. In the event of congressional action leading to a ballot initiative in the District that would take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples, will you publicly oppose the initiative and defend civil marriage equality?

Yes, I fully support civil marriage equality.

2. Will you support Bill 20-0032, the Surrogacy Parenting Agreement Act of 2013, to legalize surrogacy agreements in the District and protect all parties to such agreements?

Yes, as an attorney, I believe that establishing legal rights and remedies between parties is the best way to ensure a fair result.

PUBLIC HEALTH

3. Will you support legislation giving the directors of the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants as other minority constituent offices have, that will be open to organizations serving the populations within the offices' purview?

Yes. The agency with expertise will be in the best position to determine how funds should be spent.

4. Will you defend the District's hard-won and life-saving medical marijuana program against attacks or further restrictions, whether from Congress, federal officials or D.C. officials?

Do you have to ask? I have been a strong proponent of marijuana reform, including medical marijuana for patients, and the elimination of criminal penalties for recreational users.

5. Describe steps you will support to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.

I would carefully review whether the recommended 2011 interventions have been implemented, and what the data is telling us about success for failure.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY

6. Will you press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data?



MPD enforcement increasing focused on one crime, possession of marijuana. Resent MPD data shows almost 6,000 pot arrests in 2011, a 76% increase from 2002.

Arrests for small amounts of pot drains police resources, takes cops off the street, and makes us all less safe.

Police statistics are unsatisfactory. Their on-line crime map has been off-line for months.

7. Will you support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence?

Yes. Paul often gets to speak with MPD and other cops about their work. Almost without exception, cops want more training.

8. Will you support legislation to repeal the so-called Prostitution-Free Zone (PFZ) law, which facilitates anti-transgender profiling?

No. When I first started practicing law 28 years ago, I was a member of the panel of court-appointed lawyers at Superior Court, and represented over a dozen clients on SLIP - solicitation of prostitution. At the time, street level prostitution was common in many more parts of the District. These clients were in desperate situations, in physical danger, both from Johns and pimps. This clients needed social services, not criminal prosecution.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Do you agree that the Director of the Office of Human Rights should be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

Yes, that sounds right. Is this not the case now?

Will you support legislation to allow the issuance of new birth certificates for individuals who undergo treatment related to gender transition, end the requirement for publishing notice of a name change in the newspaper, and allow issuance of new birth certificates via administrative process instead of a court order?

Maybe. As an attorney, I would need to know whether a birth certificate issued by administrative process would be admissible in other states.

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2

YOUTH AND SENIORS

11. Will you oppose both federal and local voucher programs that fund students in religious schools that are beyond the protections of the D.C. Human Rights Act?

No. I don't think that it would be fair to those families already in the program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

12. Will you support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners, including providing local funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act?

Absolutely, sounds like more ill-considered congressional meddling.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

13. Do you support the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it, without excluding any ward?

Yes.

14. Will you support legislation to eliminate legal standing for ad hoc protest groups and citizens associations in liquor licensing cases, to permit input by all community stakeholders via the great weight already accorded Advisory Neighborhood Commissions?

I have a great respect for those who dedicate their energies to the often difficult job of ANC. I also respect that citizens have a strong interest in liquor licensing issues.

15. What will you do to provide alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to prostitution for survival?

Absolutely. Please see my answer 8 above. I have represented a number of clients in the situation you describe, and don't believe that incarceration is appropriate for these cases.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. *You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.*

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Thursday, March 7 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013.

In addition to sending your signed hard copy, please email a copy (in any major word processor or text format) for loading on GLAA's website (www.glaa.org) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

3-10-13

