

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 75265, Washington, DC 20013
August 2, 2013

Dear Councilmembers:

We at GLAA are unhappy that the Council recently voted 8-5 to postpone the election of an Attorney General from next year to 2018 (B20-0134). Presumably, this is but a prelude to the permanent cancellation of elections for this office.

GLAA took a firm position in favor of the charter amendment authorizing an elected AG in 2010. We explained our interest in the matter in our "Agenda: 2010," and I discussed the issue in our GLAA Forum blog at the time:

http://www.glaaforum.org/glaa_forum/2010/10/glaa-endorses-the-elected-attorney-general-charter-amendment.html

A question on this issue was included in GLAA's questionnaire for all Mayoral and Council candidates that year. All of you who won that year indicated your strong support for the charter amendment, as did virtually all of you who were in office but not running. The Council voted with only one dissent to put the issue to referendum that year.

We are therefore baffled and more than a little annoyed by this unexpected flip-flop. The Council's failure to hold any public hearings on the proposed AG election delay/cancellation adds insult to injury. We question whether the Council has the legal power to reverse a charter amendment vote unilaterally. More substantively, the reasons that compelled our support for an elected AG remain as valid today as in 2010. See the relevant item in GLAA's "Agenda: 2010":
http://www.glaa.org/archive/2010/agenda2010.htm#_Toc266257926

If necessary, we will again include this issue in our candidate questionnaires next year and will consider your stance in evaluating your record as part of our ratings process.

Accordingly, we ask all of you to vote against B20-0134 when it comes before you next month for second reading. We thank Councilmembers Catania, Grosso, Wells, and McDuffie, and Chairman Mendelson, for voting no at first reading.

Thank you, and best wishes for a happy summer.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Rosendall
President
Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.
<http://www.glaa.org> (main website)
<http://www.glaaforum.org> (blog)