

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Will you act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. Government employees, to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery)? [Note: this question has been overtaken by events since it was drafted at the start of 2014. Study the Mayor's executive action here: <http://tinyurl.com/kn2dzty>]

I will not propose any changes to repeal or cut transgender-inclusive insurance. I believe that transgendered employees should have the right to health care policies that meet their unique needs, and I believe that the city has a responsibility to offer competitive health care plans that can attract the best and the brightest, including potential transgendered employees.

2. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment?

I support targeted healthcare spending which most effectively delivers treatment to diverse groups.

3. Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

I support full legalization of marijuana—including retail sales and elimination on the ban on public use—with zero excise taxation for those with a prescription for medical marijuana. Because our rightwing Congress is unlikely to approve budgets with full legalization included, I support directing the MPD and Attorney General to refuse to prosecute all marijuana laws, except those that pertain to organized crime (such as laundering profits from marijuana sales).

4. Describe steps you will take 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 have a two-part strategy: 1) I would contract out many functions of healthcare to private companies on a pay-for-performance basis, with transparent bidding and clear outcomes-based metrics; 2) I would involve the private and non-profit sectors in pursuing cutting-edge Social Impact Bonds for healthcare. These bonds would allow for new experimental treatments that would only cost the city if performance metrics are met.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

5. 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?

Yes. I would press the MPD to collect and share more information on crime statistics, including specific information on hate crime date. I would also ask

the MPD to offer a plan for clearly and broadly defining hate crimes and training officers in identifying potential hate crimes. Following this, I would ask the MPD to launch a task force to find trends in the data and offer potential solutions for reducing hate crimes.

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

I fully support efforts to decriminalize victimless crimes (including criminal prosecution of the homeless for public consumption, questionable prosecution of harassment, and others). I also believe in improving mental health efforts that keep offenders out of the criminal justice system entirely. Utilizing social impact bonds, we can tap into new money to offer mental health offerings that would be difficult to fund on a trial or experimental basis, putting the risk into the hands of the private sector.

7. Will you support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training to all police officers, including in the handling of intimate partner violence?

Yes, although I would want to look at the specific numbers and metrics before committing to any specific plan.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Will you insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

Yes, although again, I would want to look at the specifics on the training and experience required.

9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including the chronically underemployed trans population?

I support merit-based hiring, and I would be hesitant to add new categories to affirmative action.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

10. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing?

I believe that the most cost-effective way to solve homelessness is to provide housing, and I would seek to learn lessons from Salt Lake City in solving homelessness for everyone. I would streamline operations to seek a housing-first policy.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

11. Will you support strengthening Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) reforms by eliminating license protests filed by citizens associations and ad hoc groups, requiring stakeholders to participate in the community process provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission?

Yes. I am fed up with the difficulty that a few people can cause in opening new businesses in DC. I would move to a 'shall-issue' for licenses, with a few clearly defined reasons for denial, such as known investor involvement in organized crime or violent crime. I would also press for a fast tracking of licenses that do not have any known issues. Protests should be taken into account during a regular review period, but should not serve to delay or stymie development.

12. Will you defend 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?

I want to eliminate DC's archaic licensing for adult entertainment venues, and I would like to move to a shall-issue for adult entertainment. There should not be additional hoops for adult venues to jump through, and there should not be an artificial cap on licenses.

Record

I work for the Reason Foundation, which is a libertarian nonprofit based in LA and DC. As part of my work, I raise money to fight for 'free minds and free markets.' We have supported marriage equality for decades, and we are proud of our leadership on the issue. We have also supported drug legalization since our founding in 1968.

I support maximizing freedom for everyone; it's my job, and it's what I believe in.



Preston W. Cornish
Candidate, Ward 5
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