

LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB

2010 STATEWIDE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name **Joe Hoeffel** Office Sought **Governor** Date **11 March 2010**

COMMUNITY

1. Who advises you on LGBT issues?

I am advised by Jim Bryson and Arthur Kaplan.

2. Do you employ any openly LGBT employees on your staff or campaign staff?

Yes. My scheduler, Jeff, is openly gay.

CIVIL RIGHTS

3. Do you support the rights of LGBT people to the following:

Marriage?

Civil Unions?

Domestic Partnership?

Second-parent adoption?

Protection from workplace discrimination?

I support full marriage equality and will advocate for its passage. While I would prefer to establish full marriage equality, if legislation legalizing civil unions has the support to pass (and full marriage equality appears not to) I will support the civil union legislation.

I support full domestic partner benefits, second-parent adoption, and protection from workplace discrimination. I am proud of my voting record in Congress for several of these and related issues.

4. Do you support PA-HB-300 which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination of individuals in employment, housing and public accommodation based on their sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression? Have you signed on as a co-sponsor.

Yes, I support PA HB 300. (Were I a legislator, I would have co-sponsored the bill.)

5. What is your position and voting record on a woman's right to choose?

As governor I will fight to protect and advance a woman's right to choose. For over thirty years I have been an outspoken leader defending women's reproductive freedom. I trust women to make their own personal, private decisions regarding reproductive health issues. Decisions about abortion should be made by a woman and her doctor. Current restrictions in Pennsylvania laws, such as waiting periods, mandatory lectures, and judicial intervention, should be repealed.

HEALTH CARE

6. 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 will encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Health to partner with, learn from, and support successful public health education programs in Pennsylvania such as LGBT Heart and Drexel University's Program for LGBT Health.

7. 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 community?

I will support the creation of training programs for public health professionals on general safety and sensitivity issues related to treatment of LGBT patients.

8. Would you support a state healthcare plan that offers sex reassignment surgery and other gender identity health coverage to state employees?

Yes. As governor, I will support and work to achieve insurance coverage for every Pennsylvanian.

9. Would you support funding for needle exchange programs to fight HIV/AIDS?

I support syringe exchange programs.

10. Would you support condom distribution in Pennsylvania's jails, detention centers, correctional facilities or prisons?

Yes.

VIOLENCE AND POLICING

11. What procedure will you enact to ensure that transgender people are treated with safety and dignity in the prison system? For example not housing male to female transsexuals with male prisoners? A lawsuit was brought by a teenage transsexual girl at the Youth Study Center who was harassed and assaulted. What actions will you take to protect LGBT children in the legal, foster care and group home situations?

I support measures such as separately housing transgendered prisoners in order to protect their safety and dignity.

The best way to protect the rights of LGBT children and families in legal, foster care, and group home situations is to be sure that all people involved are considered based on their individual merits, regardless of their status as a sexual minority, while remaining aware of and sensitive to specific concerns of LGBT children.

12. Where do you stand regarding HB 745 that was passed last year and would amend Title 18 Ethnic Intimidations Act to define crimes against individuals based on "actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity" as ethnic intimidation, or hate crimes. Introducing and passing the bill in the state Senate would add the above listed groups as protected classes of Pennsylvanians and would allow the Commonwealth to prosecute hate crimes that Federal government may not have the resources to prosecute.

I support HB 745 and hope the state Senate will pass this same bill.

13. What will you do to make domestic violence shelter services to members of the LGBT community?

Domestic violence shelter services, and law enforcement officers who respond to domestic violence incidents, need to be aware that heterosexual women are not the only victims of domestic violence. I support programs to offer training about LGBT domestic violence issues to essential services providers and responders.

FAMILIES AND YOUTH

14. 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?

Bullying in school and community is a very serious problem that requires more attention in the schools and better public awareness. I am supportive of the Student Non-Discrimination Act recently introduced in Congress, which would ban discrimination against students in public schools based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. I support improving Pennsylvania's anti-bullying law to incorporate these protections.

15. 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?

In difficult cases such as custody and adoption matters, the best way to protect the rights of children and families is to be sure that all people involved are considered based on their individual merits, regardless of their status as a sexual minority.

16. 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
- B) Safer Sex education
- C) Condom distribution
- D) Different sexual orientations
- E) Gender identity

Yes, I support reality and community-based school sex education, HIV/AIDS education, and prevention programs which would include all of these aspects.

17. 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?

LGBT seniors are twice as likely to live alone and four times as likely to have no children as heterosexual seniors. I support efforts to educate senior care providers about the needs of LGBT seniors and encourage greater outreach from care providers to LGBT seniors who lack family support networks. I also will explore ways to create social centers and programs for LGBT seniors which will promote mental, emotional, and physical health. I believe the Pennsylvania Lottery should fund these programs just as it funds other programs for senior citizens.

18. Would you work to provide state financial support organizations serving youth like community centers such as the Attic?

Yes.

LOCAL CONCERNS

19. How would 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?

I do not have a specific funding plan to provide state support to community events. In the event that a community cuts funding to a major LGBT event, I will attempt to mediate the issue and help all involved parties reach a solution which allows the event to continue.

20. How will you work to offer programs in homeless shelters to address the unique needs of the LGBT community?

I will support programs in shelters which provide resources to the homeless LGBT community, and especially to homeless LGBT youths. I will also support efforts to make homeless shelters safer and more accepting of transgender people.

21. What is your opinion on 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?

I support Philadelphia in its actions, and I would support similar actions towards other groups or organizations in violation of the Fair Practices Ordinance.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

22. Would you support a statewide bill that requires companies that obtain state contracts to offer domestic partnership benefits to their employees?

Yes, I support full domestic partner benefits for government and governmental agency employees. Montgomery County has had domestic partner benefits since 2001, and as governor I will push for Pennsylvania to provide them.

23. Would you support a requirement that all government offices have specific recruitment plans for members of the LGBT community?

I believe government employment should be equally available to all qualified applicants. I support programs which encourage interested members of the LGBT community to apply with the confidence that they will be given full, fair consideration for any government position.

24. 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?

Under my administration, government grants and loans will be awarded without prejudice for or against any business owner on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Please return by March 12th 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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