

Gertrude Stein Democratic Club 2012 Questionnaire

Name: Judi Jones, Ward 4 City Council Candidate

Date: January 2012

Human Rights

1. As a member of the Council, how will you work to increase the capacity of LGBT social service organizations? Would you support increased funding or assist in securing additional funding for LGBT social service organizations?
All social programs need increased funding. I support all segments of our society in offering social services and those organizations that provide those social services.
2. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to advocate for increased education, job training, and hiring of transgender people? Would you actively support Project Empowerment's efforts to provide options for the Transgender community?
I support hiring the best person for the job no matter the lifestyle or life choices. I advocate for better education which includes a diverse health education curriculum that speaks to different lifestyles.
3. What would you do to eliminate employment discrimination and to insure that the Transgender community obtains fair representation in all District government agencies? Would you actively support legislation and or programs designed for these purposes?
I would hold District government agencies accountable for their hiring, retaining, and promotion practices for all employees. I would actively support programs designed to ensure that WDC agencies are creating an environment of fair practices that embrace our entire community.
4. If there is any effort to undo the marriage rights secured for DC's LGBT Community, what will you do to actively defend and help ensure that the marriage rights secured for DC's LGBT Community remain intact?
I oppose undoing the marriage right for DC's LGBT community for nonsensical reasons such as religious conviction or moral stance.
5. Would you advocate that the unique needs of GLBT seniors are included in all D.C. planning documents, including plans for senior-support services, recreation, housing and medical services, including long-term care?
All seniors regardless of lifestyle need to be included in DC planning. I am not sure if I am aware of the unique needs of GLBT seniors but I am open to hearing what those needs are so that they can be included in the planning.
6. Would you openly advocate that LGBT cultural sensitivity training is mandated and for all senior service providers (including long term care facilities), plus nursing assistive personnel?
Absolutely.
7. The DC Center, (which houses and assists numerous programs critical to the health and well being of the DC LGBT community) is in search for a permanent home. As a Council member, would you dedicate a staff member to work with the DC Center to identify a permanent home?
Yes.

8. Would you be supportive of the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs having grant making authority and an increased budget to provide grants in the District providing services to the LGBT community?
Yes. I would make sure that those services are duplicated in other social programs and efforts are consolidated to provide services to everyone.
9. In the past year, what LGBT related events or activities did you participate in? Are you currently a member of any LGBT organizations or causes?
I took a producer's class at DCTV. Our project, a short segment, featured the Ida Mae Campbell center on Alabama Ave SE. This organization is drop-in center for mental health, employment and housing resources. It is the only drop-in center that I know of in the city. It is run by a member of the transgender community. Producing this segment taught me a lot about mental health, homelessness and addiction.

Public Safety

10. Do you think there should be a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce hate crimes and violence in the LGBT community and if so, what elements should be in that plan?
Yes, there should be a plan to reduce hate crimes and violence in the LGBT community and society in general. The police and the LGBT community need to come together to work on the plan.
11. Besides holding yearly hearings, what can and/or will you do as a legislator to ensure that the District is aggressively responding to the increase in incidents of hate crimes against the LGBT community that have been occurring recently?
Police are not responding to crimes against residents. Hate crimes of all kinds racial, religious, ethnic and LGBT crimes need to be reduced. Police need to respond to all crimes, especially violent and hate crimes of all types
12. What would you do to support efforts to insure that marginalized LGBT youth and Transgender citizens of the District who are often victims of hate crimes and discrimination have safe and affirming options when challenged with homelessness, hunger and unemployment?
Homelessness, hunger and unemployment are a result of marginalizing people. WDC has done a terrible job educating our youth. If we can improve the educational curriculum, our society would be more comfortable accepting differences in community. The fix is not short term. Beginning to fix the problem should begin immediately but the results should be expected in the long term.

Education and Youth

13. Do you support the current DC Board of Education's Health Standards that include discussions of sexual orientation in learning about sex education in public schools? As a councilmember, will you commit to requiring a report on the implementation of these new health standards as part of your role as a member of the Education committee? **Yes. Yes.**
14. Do you support DCPS leadership in advocating for additional mandatory teacher and faculty training in all DC public schools regarding LGBT student safety?
All students need to feel safe. I would support training for safety for all students no matter lifestyle choice.
15. As a legislator, what will you do to help the efforts of DCPS, OSSE, and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education to make sure that all LGBT students can learn in a safe and supportive environment?
If students feel safe in the school, LGBT students should feel safe in the school.

16. As a Council member, what will you do to support after school activities and initiatives that specifically include the needs of LGBT youth?
Yes.

Health/HIV/AIDS

15. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to hold the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA) and the Department of Health accountable for aggressively working to develop and implement a strategy to reduce the unacceptably high HIV/AIDS rates in the District's LGBT community, specifically among gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color?
The HAHSTA needs to identify specific people who participate in a reckless lifestyle. Access to male and female condoms, needle distribution and safe houses are ways to identify and reduce the high rate of all the sexual/social ills mentioned.
16. As a legislator, what will you do to ensure that the Department of Health provides an annual report and update on LGBT health statistics? What will you do to insure that the Transgender community as well as communities of color is included in that report?
Make sure data is collected that includes all communities and all health issues.

BUDGET

17. As a legislator, what are some of the proposals or initiatives that you would implement to increase revenue for critical city-wide social services that inevitably affect the LGBT community while allowing for a balanced budget?
While the LGBT community has its specific issues, I would ensure that reporting specifically include LGBT critical issues. I would be especially vigilant if programs that should encompass the total community break out those number that affect the LGBT community, such as hate crimes, HIV/AIDS transmission or education/youth curriculum.