



2010 City Council Candidate QUESTIONNAIRE

Tommy Wells, Candidate for Ward 6 City Council

Please Draft Your Candidate Statement responding to the Questions below.

Human Rights

1. As a Councilmember, what will you do to help ensure that the marriage rights secured for DC's LGBT Community remain intact?

I was incredibly proud to not only vote for full marriage equality in DC, but also co-introduce the landmark legislation that now recognizes all committed couples equally under the law. I will work hard to protect this right from any threat and will remain vigilant in oversight of the city's implementation of the law.

2. Would you be supportive of the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs having grant making authority and an increased budget to provide grants to 501c3 organizations in the District providing services to the LGBT community?

With appropriate oversight of public dollars, I would support grant making authority and additional funding for the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs.

3. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to support increased funding or assist in securing additional funding for LGBT social service organizations such as the DC Center, the Mautner Project, SMYAL, Metro Teen AIDS, and Transgender Health Empowerment?

While the Council has eliminated direct earmark funding, I will continue to support grant funding for LGBT social service organizations through agencies such as the Department of Health and the Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation.

4. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to advocate for increased education, job training, and hiring of transgendered people?

I will continue to protect all people's rights for equal access to education and job opportunities without discrimination.



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5. Do you support mandatory sensitivity training in workplaces that have transgender employees or new hires who may be transgender?

I support cultural competency and sensitivity training in all workplaces, to ensure that employees and managers are respectful of all people, including LGBT professional colleagues, associates or clients.

6. In the past, what LGBT related events, activities, or organizations have you participated in or been a member of or are currently a member of?

My wife and I are both current members of Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, and have been for many years. I have participated in countless marches, celebrations and events in support of LGBT rights, such as the protest against Proposition 8 on the Mall and the annual Capital Pride Parade.

7. Do you have any self identified LGBT staff or campaign volunteers, and if so, how many? How racially and ethnically diverse is your office?

I pride myself in creating an open, diverse and respectful office and campaign. Staff and volunteers represent a diversity of ages, races, ethnicities, and sexual and gender orientation.

Public Safety

8. Given that the GLLU is one of the only LGBT related units in the country, will you support and advocate for the Metropolitan Police Department to increase the current staffing, as well as support the hiring of a full time sergeant who understands the LGBT community and LGBT policing?

I support a strong and effective GLLU, with a full time sergeant, within the Metropolitan Police Department to provide highly effective LGBT services, including specialized policing. I also support efforts to ensure that all MPD officers, administrators and leadership have a better understanding of and sensitivity to the LGBT community and policing needs.



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9. Will you advocate for the executive office of the mayor to establish policy requiring agency directors to implement mandatory training for all members of DCPS, Fire and EMS workers regarding LGBT people (including LGBT people of color, those that are limited English proficient, and those that are disabled)?

I support full cultural competence and training for these employees, as well as all agency employees, regarding LGBT people and concerns, including race and ethnicity, language access or limited English proficiency, and disability.

10. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to insure that the District is aggressively responding to the increase in incidents of hate crimes against the LGBT community that have been occurring over the last two years, aside from holding yearly hearings on the issue?

I have zero tolerance of any hate crimes. I support increased patrols in areas where they have been reported and will strongly support increased prosecution for any crime suspected to be a hate crime.

11. As a legislator, will you be committed to working to stop the DC Department of Corrections policy of relying on genitalia as a basis for gender identification rather than an individual's gender identity or expression?

Yes. I also want to ensure that all individuals under the control of the DC Department of Corrections will be detained in a manner that keeps the individual safe and avoids conflicts that put the individual at risk.

Education and Youth

12. 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?

I believe discussion of sexual orientation in teaching sex education and sexual health is necessary and critical for healthy youth development.



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13. Do you support DCPS leadership in advocating for additional mandatory teacher and faculty training in all DC public schools regarding LGBT student safety?

As a member of the DC Board of Education I successfully sponsored a policy that requires teachers and faculty to participate in a plan for every high school to keep LGBT students safe and free from harassment.

14. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to hold DCPS, OSSE, and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education accountable for making sure that all LGBT students can learn in a safe and supportive environment?

While I was a member of the DC Board of Education, I worked with SMYAL and the Young Women's Project to adopt one of the strongest anti-harassment policies in the nation (according to the Blade). The policy protects LGBT youth, young women and all minority students from harassment and requires each school to adopt the plan for maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment.

Just as important, I strongly supported the rights of LGBT employees to be free from discrimination in the workplace at DCPS.

Lastly but just as important, I am the only Councilmember to actively oppose publically funded vouchers for parents to use at religious schools that actively discriminate against LGBT employees and women.

15. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to support afterschool activities and initiatives that specifically include the needs of LGBT youth?

As a member of the DC Board of Education, I intervened at Eastern High School to protect the right of a youth leader and teacher to establish a club for LGBT youth. I will continue to advocate for extracurricular programs that support the healthy social development of our LGBT youth.



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Health/HIV/AIDS

16. As a legislator, what can and/or will you do to hold the HIV/AIDS Administration and the Department of Health accountable for aggressively working to develop and implement a strategy to reduce the unacceptably high HIV/AIDS rate among the District's LGBT community, specifically LGBT communities of color and the transgender community?

As a member of the Council's Committee on Health, I have consistently supported legislation, policies and budgets that are aggressively working to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS among DC's residents, in particular the District's LGBT communities. In addition, I co-sponsored the "Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan Act of 2009" and the "Effi Slaughter Barry HIV/AIDS Initiative Act of 2007".

DC Taxi Cab Meters

17. As a councilmember, will you hold the District government accountable for conducting the impact study of DC taxi cab meter rates every two years as the law requires?

While I do not sit on the committee with oversight jurisdiction for taxi cabs, I will work with the committee chair to ensure that the impact study of DC taxi cab meter rates takes place as required under the law.