

CANDIDATE STATEMENT/INFORMATION FOR THE GERTRUDE STEIN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

About Me

Biographical information:

Age: 55

Occupation: Self-employed Editor, Writer, and Publications/Communications Consultant

Education: *magna cum laude* graduate, Howard University, B.S., 1978

Qualifications:

I have worked in some aspect of education or scholarship during most of my professional career, beginning in the 1970s as a board and staff member in the early days of a District-based, independent (non-chartered) school that still exists today. Later as a reporter for a magazine focusing on African American and diversity issues in higher education; associate editor of a major education research journal; consultant to a Department of Education-funded center focusing on at-risk youth; director of a university-based book publishing division; and publications director for the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), where I was also responsible for oversight of its teacher education journal, annual meeting and other conference materials, and electronic and web communications. In my concurrent and current roles as an entrepreneurial writer, editor, and publications/communications consultant, many of my clients are teachers, teacher educators, schools, and universities with whom I've established a decades-long reputation as a knowledgeable, objective advisor on academic matters. I also work for a number of federal and local government agencies whose missions address areas relevant to students and schools.

POSITION STATEMENT

People ask if I'm for or against the recent DCPS reforms. I say: I'm for whatever it takes for D.C. students, teachers, and schools to succeed across every ward and neighborhood. With three decades' experience in PK-12 and higher education, I know that continued progress requires proven leadership. I will bring lessons learned from my personal investment in DCPS (three kids who are DCPS graduates; three grandkids currently enrolled) and my education career to advance evidence-based best practices. Just as I've fought for change in Ward 4 for years, I will advocate for innovation, equity, accountability, and oversight for D.C. schools. I will actively engage the residents of my ward by attending community meetings

Regarding issues of specific concern to LGBT youth in DC schools, my focus extends to many areas. For one, I will work to ensure that DCPS policies addressing bullying in all its forms—cyberbullying, physical brutality, teasing, and more—are explicit in confronting

and correcting the homophobia that is often either the source of or the impetus behind it. Additionally, I will advocate for curricular changes and standards that serve to increase and expand DCPS students' awareness of changing views and medical science about sexuality and that will educate youth to take protective action to reduce their incidence of a range of sexual health challenges such as HIV/AIDS and STDs. I also endorse policies and practices that more sensitively consider the specific issues, needs, and rights (or lack thereof) of LGBT parents and guardians to fully involve themselves and their partners in the school lives of their children in DCPS schools. Neither LGBT parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, nor youth should be categorized, marginalized, and ostracized on the basis of their sexual orientation and thereby prevented from realizing their full potentials as members of the District's "school family." All DCPS policies should be rigorously reviewed to eliminate any biases of that sort, and I will use not only my well-trained editorial eye but also my social justice eye to accomplish that end.