

**National Lavender Green Caucus
LGBT Green Candidate Questionnaire**

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CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE: **Arizona House of Representatives, Legislative District 15**
ELECTION DATE: **November 2, 2010**
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Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. Completed questionnaire may be returned to the NLGC Secretary at: timc2@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for considering a National Lavender Green Caucus endorsement.

1 GLBT people in the U.S. are twice as likely to not have healthcare coverage as the rest of the U.S. population. What will your office do to help ameliorate this disparity in coverage while simultaneously working towards universal single payer healthcare?

I would focus on establishing a recognition of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as protected classes of citizens in the state of Arizona, thus helping to prevent discriminatory practices regarding health care. I would also strive to create a universal single payer healthcare option for the citizens of our state, while continuing to oppose current and future measures to, constitutionally or otherwise, deny us our right to healthcare for all.

2 What are the biggest issues facing women and girls within the LGBT community? How would you address gender disparity in political representation, funding priorities, healthcare, job discrimination, issues relating to parenting, and so forth?

Acceptance and awareness of a true sense of self I feel is a struggle amongst humans in general, but especially in women of all ages in the LGBT community. A combination of not enough positive role models and a lack of women in position of power, I believe, contribute to this confusion, in addition to societal pressures of gender roles. I would work towards equal representation of women in congress and ratification of both the ERA and CEDAW.

3 Do you support the inclusion of transgender people in all federal non-discrimination and hate crime legislation?

Absolutely with NO hesitation or reservations.

4 What is your position regarding the inclusion of the trans community in the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) ?

ENDA should be inclusive of all LGBT community members.

5 What would you do about the high poverty and low employment rates for transgender

persons?

Create inclusive social service that assist ALL LGBT community members and help create more community/industry based support systems that focus on education and awareness training.

6 Would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual-orientation and gender-identity discrimination?

YES, as well as verbal orientations to all new visitors and staff regarding said policy and help encourage others to create the same type of policies for their offices.

7 Do you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity?

YES. I feel that accurate, accessible and unbiased information is crucial for people of all ages, especially our school-aged children and young adults.

8 What steps would you take to curb the discrimination and violence directed at LGBT youth in public schools.

I completely support and develop anti-bullying policies, legislation and training for ALL educational settings for all students, staff and faculty that would be inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

9 Would you support or oppose using the sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression of caretaking adults as a factor in determining the best placement for a child for child custody, foster parenting, or adoption?

I would oppose because I feel that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression is irrelevant to competency, experience and/or ability to care for a child or children.

10 Do you support needle exchange programs to reduce transmission of HIV?

YES. I would support needle exchange programs and encourage those programs to develop education programs and support service regarding HIV/AIDS transmission and testing, substance abuse and rehab information as well as safe areas for supported transitions.

11 Would you support an expansion of Federal funding for HIV and AIDS programs, including HIV/STD prevention education in our public schools?

YES.

12 The impact of the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic is hardest on racial minorities. How do you propose addressing those populations?

Developing support services that develop educational programs and outreach to minority communities as well as comprehensive HIV/AIDS policy reform that focuses

on human treatment and care of persons with HIV/AIDS free from discrimination and with dignity intact.

13 Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT issues?

Yes, being that I am my only staff ^_^

14 Would you support mandatory diversity training for public employees that includes LGBT issues?

YES.

15 Do you support marriage equality for LGBT people?

Absolutely! (My fiancée and I will wed this fall)

16 If your jurisdiction does not allow same sex marriage, do you support the inclusion of domestic partner benefits in all employee contracts?

YES.

17 Would you support Congressional repeals of the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policies?

YES and strive to be inclusive of all LGBT people and their dependents.

18 Do you support "charitable choice" or "faith based" programs that allow public dollars to be used to subsidize social services offered by religious organizations that are allowed to disregard civil rights laws in hiring and public services?

NO. Public dollars should not be spent to fuel discrimination and hate.

19 What are the biggest issues facing queers of color?

Being a Latina and Black Lesbian has presented its fair share of issues, but I feel the biggest obstacle that I can attest to is cultural adversity and acceptance. It's hard enough facing the world, but when your own people are casting you out, it becomes that much more difficult to gain footing. Coming out to our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and communities is so vital to not only create a sense of awareness and understanding for those around us, but also to empower others to find strength, not shame, in themselves to then create strength in their communities.

20 What are the biggest issues facing LGBT people with disabilities?

I feel we need more community resources for socialization and community outings that aren't always in a typical bar setting that all people can accessibly and affordably enjoy.

21 Please describe (briefly) what your top goals will be if elected to this office.

Regarding LGBT issues, If I were elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in District 15, I would focus on creating employment and housing non-discrimination policies, anti-bullying policies for ALL educational institutions, students, staff and faculty members, and creating a sexual orientation, gender identity and expression protection class for citizens.

22 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?

I have volunteered with GLSEN, Planned Parenthood, volunteered and performed at Phoenix Pride and Rainbows Festival, have completed a LGBT studies course at Glendale Community College, helped organize a rally in Nov. 2008 after the passage of Prop 102 in AZ and Prop 8 in CA of over 5000 people that marched from city hall to our capitol building in protest against these hateful constitutional amendments, facilitated discussions and trainings to build bridges between communities of color and the LGBT community, I have been a panel speaker at 1n10 which is a local LGBT youth organization, I was recently arrested at Senator John McCain's office in May of this year regarding a civil disobedience action against his stance on the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, I am a former steering committee member of H.E.R.O (Human and Equal Rights Organizers), I am current member of Sisterzz Twisted Drag Troupe which the first Drag King troupe in Phoenix and is the only troupe to exclusively raise funds for LGBT organizations and community members for the past 10+ years in Phoenix. I am also currently working on a project with Servicemembers United to help establish a service organization for active military members and veterans.

23 As a candidate how will you get LGBT voters to vote for Green Party candidates?

I will continue to remind members of the LGBT community that as an entire party, we support full legal and political protection regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression and that NO other party can make that same statement.

My definition of a win this election will be if:

- **I am able to grow my party through voter registration, outreach, and education**
- **I create a better awareness and understanding of The Arizona Green Party and The Ten Key Values**
- **I help alleviate frustrations of disenfranchised voters from the typical two-party system**
- **I truly make great connections, plant seeds of growth, and learn/appreciate every lesson along the way!**

<http://www.lavendergreens.us/>