

National Lavender Green Caucus Candidate Questionnaire

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Office you are seeking: **Denver Public School District #1**

Date of election: **November 7, 2017**

Campaign website: **juliedps.com**

Social networking sites:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/banuelosforeducation/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/banuelos4Ed>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/banuelos4ed/>

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible and return completed questionnaire to the National Lavender Greens Caucus Secretary at: timc2@sbcglobal.net

1. Do you support the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity plank of the National Green Party Platform?

As a member of the LGBTQIA+, I am firmly supportive of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity plank of the National Green Party Platform. The National Party's platform, specifically, under the pillar of Social Justice (Social Justice & Equal Opportunity; Respect for Diversity and, Feminism and Gender Equality) intentionally embeds values essential to recognizing and promoting the talents and cultural capital that our community offers at the local, state and national level.

2. Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, others (LGBTQIA+) people in the U.S. are twice as likely to be without health insurance compared to the rest of the U.S. population. What will your office do to help ameliorate this disparity in coverage while working towards single payer healthcare?

Although, I'm running for a Denver School Board seat, I believe it's evermore important to create and implement policy that protects and supports our LGBTQIA+ students and school employees. Professional development opportunities, readily available resources and allies in the administration and school offices would help in promoting inclusivity and safety.

I believe it is of utmost importance to insure that our school facilities have non-gender bathrooms and that staff that works in the school clinics are knowledgeable and provide safe spaces while providing culturally appropriate services to our LGBTQIA+.

3. How would you improve gender disparity in political representation, funding priorities, healthcare, job placement, and so forth? What do you think are the biggest obstacles for women and girls in the U.S.

My candidacy is important on many levels especially because it speaks to the value of candidates' intersectionality and the need to make this an asset and promotion in political races. With the success and wins of such candidates, it'll inevitably make a difference in shrinking the disparity but, to align ourselves with similarly-minded grassroots groups will hopefully contribute to addressing the imbalance of power when it comes to funding, healthcare and employment.

In the meantime, preparing likely candidates and building their capacity will change the landscape of local, state and national politics. The Green Party is overtly fighting oppression and adding value to the work of bringing down barriers for women, girls and I would include our transgender community to that demographic.

4. Do you support the inclusion of transgender people in federal bills pertaining to non-discrimination and hate crime legislation?

I unequivocally give you a resounding YES!

5. What is your position regarding religious freedom acts?

I believe we should not discriminate against the choice that people have to practice religion; however, our mainstream and dominant culture reflect and protect mainly those of the Judeo-Christian beliefs. We must recognize mandated laws and call-out oppressive stances against other religions, minorities, indigenous communities and additional marginalized groups that include our LGTBQIA+ community.

6. How would you address the high poverty, low employment rate, high incarceration rate, and high murder rate for transgender persons?

Our campaign specifically aims to keep students safe. Specifically, in removing resource officers (police) from our elementary schools, implementing comprehensive restorative practices that are embraced at the school level and made sustainable through details like funding, buy-in by all staff and fidelity to the program. These efforts aim at also providing students the tools needed to

resolve conflicts with efficacy and relevant language that positively empowers all participants. Accordingly, developing to young adults that are empathetic, respectful and civically-minded.

Bullying must be addressed at the beginning of the school year and maintained by giving educators time to build a classroom culture that informs students of what bullying is, what form it takes and how it's destructive. Often, teachers are expected to prioritize academic learning, especially preparation for standardized test and data collection, while the socio-emotional development of students is sacrificed. We must also emphasize socio-emotional learning and a real whole-child education that is equipped with robust wrap-around services at all schools.

7. Would you make hiring qualified transgender persons, persons of color, and persons with a disability a priority in your office?

Yes, students benefit when they are surrounded by a community of educators that look like them and are culturally competent.

8. Would you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression?

Yes, without a doubt.

9. What steps would you take to curb discrimination and violence directed at LGBTQIA+ youth in public schools.

When a school culture fails to protect our LGBTQIA+ youth in public schools, it is the responsibility of administrators and its school board to intervene and not only monitor the school practices put hold the perpetrators accountable for this violence.

Steps:

A) Require schools to put statements regarding the safety and protection of our students of color, our students with disabilities, our English learners and our LGBTQIA+ in their student conduct/handbooks that requires student and parent commitments.

B) Violation of this student expectation should result in parent meeting with administration and the restorative practice

coordinator/dean/paraprofessional.

C) Allow for a restorative circle/conversation.

D) Have a reintegrative component to occur after the parties reach a reparation of harm.

E) Creating sustainability by including participants as models in showing others how to respect and keep others safe.

10. Do you think that sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression should be a factor in determination of child custody cases, or consideration for placement of foster children or for adoption?

No, sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression should not be factored in the child custody cases or a consideration for foster care or adoption. The most important factors to consider in relation to custody, foster care and adoption is that our children have a loving home where they are safe, given stability and where their needs are met.

11. Do you support needle exchange programs to reduce transmission of blood borne diseases, including HIV?

Yes.

12. Would you support Federal funding for HIV/AIDS programs and public HIV/STD prevention education?

Yes. This shouldn't be an option but, a common resource available from the start of any sex education curriculum.

13. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is hardest on racial minorities who tend to be poor due to systemic racism in the United States. How do you propose addressing the HIV/AIDS needs of this population?

As a school board member, creating policy where our school-based clinics are fully-staffed and equipped with the resources that are far-reaching in schools that serve our low-income, minorities, LGBTIA+ and working-class. Currently, the policies in Denver Public Schools reinforce the systematic racism that is all too common. Moreover, the school-based budgeting practices must be monitored so that principals don't skim over providing these goods.

14. Will you have sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBTQIA+ issues?

Yes. I requested this training in one of the schools that I worked at and

although, the principal said she would, there was never follow-through. Assuming the role of a board member, this requirement wouldn't be easily passed-over.

15. Would you support mandatory diversity training for public employees that includes racism and LGBTQIA+ issues?

Yes!

16. Do you support the right of religious organizations that offer social services and receive tax dollars to subsidize these services to discriminate against LGBTQIA+ people?

No. These are hurtful practices/policies.

17. What do you think are the biggest issues facing LGBTQIA+ people of color?

I believe the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ people of color are: Racism, abandonment and/or non-acceptance by family; threat to their safety/abuse and, homelessness.

18. What do you think are the biggest issues facing LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities?

I would say the stigmatization and discrimination that our LGBTQIA with disabilities experience and the need for quality and affordable healthcare. I would very much like to have our LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities voice their needs, as I can't say I know everything that this community group experiences.

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

A) SUPPORTING TEACHERS

- Protect and defend collective bargaining rights
- Fight for fair implementation and use of the teacher evaluation system, known as LEAP
- Move classroom discipline issues out of the classroom and into the hands of restorative justice counselors, so that other students can stay on track

B) LAUNCHING MEANINGFUL POLICY FOR FAMILIES

- End the "choice" system and its admin-heavy, expensive support structure
- Protect families/students from unfair persecution when they decide to opt out of standardized testing
- Drastically reform the school performance framework, so that students in poverty, students with disabilities and English-learning students are no longer used as the excuse to shutter our public schools
- Equip schools with a proportional number of staff that can explain and guide families through the

exact process of an IEP and advise parents about the outside resources

- Institute wraparound services in our schools, so that schools become community centers that parents can trust

C) ENDING PRIVATIZATION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Initiate a full moratorium on new charter school applications
- Conduct public hearings on existing charter school renewals to air out issues and complaints before renewals are approved
- Remove members of pro-corporate reform “nonprofits” from our advisory committees and oversight boards, specifically with the bond and mill levy
- Fight against every school closure, and never support any restructuring of school or staff without a full public audit and legitimate consent of students, families and teachers

D) ADVOCATING FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of initiatives like choice, Success Express, charter schools, etc.
- Work toward a moratorium on new school construction when boundaries could be changed to fill existing schools instead of incurring more debt
- Fight for an independent audit of the district’s finances
- Dig deeply to find ways to make up the contribution shortfall to the teacher’s pension fund
- Eliminate out-of-court settlements with families of students with disabilities by adopting inclusive and appropriate policies and budget allocations at the school level

E) ENDING DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY

- Absolute fidelity to the English learner federal court order, to which DPS is subject
- Removing “resource officers” from our schools, and re-allocating that expense to more restorative justice counselors
- Removing the test scores of English learners not yet fluent from school ratings that are used to close our public schools
- Fight for resources for, and defend the civil rights of, students with disabilities
- Provide a safe, anti-oppression zone for LGBTQIA+ students and ensure our schools have genderless restroom and locker facilities for those who wish to use them.
- Respect a student’s self-determined gender identity and update forms, systems, language and processes to support that identification.

20. What past or present LGBTQIA+ related events, activities, or organizations have you participated in?

- I walked in PRIDE as a teacher union member and as a candidate
- I participated, as a soccer player, in the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam
- I am working on creating a Lavender Caucus in the Green Party of Colorado (I am the co-chair of the Denver Green Party)
- As a college student, I engaged and supported the Stonewall Resource Center while at Grinnell College

21. How will you get the LGBTQIA+ vote as a Green Party candidate?

- First, I am comfortable being OUT and it’s important for me to advocate for the needs of our educators, students and families that are LGBTQIA+.
- Second, the Green Party states in that it directly works at combating homophobia and other violence against our community, this stance is a true testament to why Green is the only way to

improve social constructs. Moreover, the Denver Green Party bylaws recently adopted changes that include intentional language that supports anti-oppression, anti-homophobia, anti-transgender and anti-capitalism. I am proud of our chapter's work in this area and it will be a significant talking point during outreach, especially with people looking for better options than the Republican and Democratic parties.

22. Do you support the four pillars and the Ten Key Values? Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-Based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal & Global Responsibility, and Future Focus? If "No" please elaborate.

I sure do!

23. Do you support the Mission of the Lavender Greens Caucus? Elimination of heterosexism and all its manifestations such as homophobia, violence, prejudice, and injustice against the LGBTQIA+ communities, and the elimination of racism and sexism and all their manifestations in LGBTQIA+ communities, and society as a whole? If "No" please elaborate.

Yes!

24. Do you meet all of the legal qualifications for this office?

Yes

25. What primary ballot (if any) did you pull in the last general primary?

N/A; I am registered Green in Colorado. We did not have primaries.

26. Why do you wish to hold this office?

I wish to hold this office because it's time to bring the voice of a LGTBQIA+ teacher, a member of the working class, a daughter of immigrant and migrant workers to the forefront of a governing body like the board of education in Denver. The current members of the B.O.E are loyal to corporations and the privatization movement that aims at implementing a one-size-fits-all school model that produces test takers instead of embracing the diversity in culture, learning modalities, self-identification and empowering students for the journey of adulthood.

27. Why do you feel you are qualified to run?

I am a veteran, union teacher of more than 15 years and a longstanding member of my community.

28. What do you think is the most important issue to be addressed?

Ending the privatization of public schools, and one by-product of charters is the zero-tolerance behavior policies that stigmatize LGBTQIA+ students by repressing their self-expression and imposing a cis/hetero-patriarchal norm that is oppressive.

29. What do you think is the most important LGBTQIA+ issue to be addressed?

For students, addressing the rate of suicide is Job One.

30. Have you previously run for and/or held a public elected office?

No

31. Have you been convicted of any crime? If "Yes" please elaborate

No

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