

National Lavender Green Caucus Candidate Questionnaire

Questionnaire can be copied and pasted into an email or downloaded Word document

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Office you are seeking: Minneapolis City Council Ward 3

Date of election: November 7, 2017

Campaign website: <http://preefor3.ruck.us/>

Social networking sites:

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?

<http://www.gp.org/platform/2004/socjustice.html#999077>

Yes

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?

I emphasize the importance of accurate data. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey Report, 86% reported that they were covered by a health insurance or a health coverage plan, and 14% reported that they were uninsured.¹ This compares to 89% of adults in the general U.S. population who were covered by a health insurance or health coverage plan in 2015, as reported in the American Community Survey (ACS).

I support health care as a right and a single-payer system as the best route to universal access to healthcare for all! Part of achieving that goal is ensuring the accurate monitoring of existing health care delivery options and government policy that oversees healthcare funding.

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.

All of these issues can be intimately linked to a stratification of wealth that drives wealth disparity, expands poverty and suppresses upward mobility. We must focus on community investment that strengthens local community through sustainable availability of affordable housing, home ownership pathways and financial literacy.

¹ James SE, Herman JL, et al. (2016). "The report of the 2015 US transgender survey." National Center for Transgender Equality..

A study released by the school of Public Affairs at American University, *Girls Just Wanna Not Run*, presents five principal reasons women are less likely to run for office than men:²

1. Young men are more likely than young women to be socialized by their parents to think about politics as a career path.
2. From their school experiences to their peer associations to their media habits, young women tend to be exposed to less political information and discussion than young men.
3. Young men are more likely than young women to have played organized sports and care about winning.
4. Young women are less likely than young men to receive encouragement to run for office – from anyone.
5. Young women are less likely than young men to think they will be qualified to run for office, even after they are established in their careers.

This type of cultural environment represents the biggest obstacle for women and girls in the U.S. in the achievement of greater gender equity. Beyond providing more encouragement to women and girls, we need to reform systems and institutions in a way that makes them more welcoming to the type of community and social values we have typically defined as feminine values.

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

Yes. That said, I am circumspect regarding the manner in which hate crime legislation tends to be heavily biased toward funding and empowering police and the criminal justice system which works against transgender individuals who have faced high rates of incarceration and often are placed in facilities not matching their gender identity. Deterrents are not an effective means of social reform as evidenced by the explosive growth of for profit prisons. We must emphasize community support systems that are gender inclusive. Services to women are reparative. Services to men are punitive. It is essential to shift focus to early intervention and prevention.

5. What is your position regarding religious freedom acts?

I oppose them, but I also believe the LGBTQIA+ community needs to be balanced about its relationship to religious orientation as there is also a desire to protect religious practices such as an observant Muslim's right to pray at work.

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

I interpret these issues according to the stratification of wealth and the enormous migration of wealth. As a city council member I will focus on sustainable housing affordability through longer term development contracts, non-discrimination policies and greater community ownership. I also support direct home ownership pathways and financial literacy.

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

² Lawless JL, Fox RL. (2013). "Girls Just Wanna Not Run: The Gender Gap in Young Americans' Political Ambition." Report from the Women & Politics Institute, American University.

Yes. My campaign manager is a transgender woman.

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

Yes. I believe we need a broader representation of diversity in our school curriculum.

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

I will support existing programs and administrators that demonstrate commitment to these goals.

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?

It really has little relevance. It is just one of many issues that need to be addressed in reforming a family court system that is heavily biased toward gender stereotypes which frequently do not represent the best interests of the child.

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

Yes, unequivocally.

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

Yes, definitely. I would like to see HIV/AIDS treatment come under a single payer health care system. In the meantime, Federal funding for HIV/AIDS remains critical for the ongoing containment of this public health issue. Funding should also continue in the areas of research and public education. Public health education is an essential part of social wellness and containing health care costs.

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?

This also emphasizes the value of a single payer health care system. We don't see these racial disparities among Medicaid recipients.³ It is also essential to consider demographic and socioeconomic correlations when prioritizing research, public education, and access to healthcare services.

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

Yes.

³ Zhang, S., McGoy, S. L., Dawes, D., Fransua, M., Rust, G., & Satcher, D. (2014). The potential for elimination of racial-ethnic disparities in HIV treatment initiation in the Medicaid population among 14 southern states. *PLoS One*, 9(4), e96148.

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. We should not supply tax dollars to any organization that discriminates.

I also believe the LGBTQIA+ community needs to be balanced about its relationship to religious orientation because many religious organizations provide valuable social services including support to LGBTQIA+ communities.

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

Erasure of people of color from the movement, particularly transgender women of color who have consistently played a primary role in the advancement of social justice and civil rights.

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

Limited public awareness and isolation from mainstream public spaces. It is important to take a proactive position so every discussion is informed with respect to access and visibility.

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

1) Sustainable availability of affordable housing and homeownership pathways.

2) Reimagine and reinvent policing, public engagement and service.

3) Address environmental hazards threatening air, soil, and water quality.

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

Supported the rally against allowing uniformed police to march in the Pride Parade.

Campaigned against the Gay Marriage Amendment in 2012.

Supported LGBT+ being allowed to serve freely in the military.

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

We have high visibility for this community and direct outreach.

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.

Yes.

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? _____

NA. We use RCV.

26. Why do you wish to hold this office?

Beyond my desire to strengthen the quality and economic stability of my community. I believe in the need to have more women and women of color in political office. I believe in democracy that is reflective and representative of the communities that elected officials serve.

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

Because of my strong background in leaderships roles, as a veteran, program manager and parent. I have spent 20 years working in healthcare because I always put people and their needs first, just like I will do for my constituents.

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

Economic disparities

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

Working with the community to better understand their relationship to broader issues of gender equity.

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

Not elected office, but I do hold a position on the board of directors at KMOJ radio as 1st Vice President, and I was the co-chair of the African Descent Network and the Global Women’s Network at Medtronic.

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

No

WWW.lavendergreens.us