

EMPIRE STATE  PRIDE AGENDA

The Pride Agenda's Political Action Committee (PAC) endorses candidates running for the New York State Assembly and Senate in both the primary and general elections. The first step in the endorsement process is for candidates to fill out our state legislative candidate questionnaire. Candidates must submit a questionnaire **by Wednesday, August 2** to be considered for a **primary endorsement**, and by **Wednesday, September 20 for a general election endorsement**. It is not necessary for candidates to fill out separate questionnaires for the primary and general elections.

**2006 State Legislator Candidate Questionnaire  
Background Information**

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Campaign Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Headquarters' Address \_\_\_\_\_

Headquarters' Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager's Name \_\_\_\_\_

What party lines are you seeking or running on?  Democrat  Republican  
 Conservative  Independence  
 Liberal  Right-to-Life  
 Green  Working Families  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you seeking an endorsement for a Primary and General Election \_\_\_\_? Or General Election only \_\_\_\_?

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Community Service History \_\_\_\_\_

Endorsements to Date \_\_\_\_\_

Previous offices held (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Involvement with the LGBT community: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions on Positions

1. Do you think same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry?

Yes       No

2. If you answered no on question one, what mechanisms (e.g., civil union, domestic partnership, etc.) do you think should be available to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families? Would you sponsor bills to create these mechanisms?

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3. Would you support legislation that allowed same-sex couples to marry?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

4. Can you envision any circumstance where you would support legislation such as the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" or a similar federal or state Constitutional amendment that defines marriage as only between one man and one woman or otherwise bars same-sex couples from having equal access to marriage?

Yes       No

If yes, describe the circumstances in which you would support such a measure:

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5. The Attorney General of NY has opined that marriage commity laws require New York to respect the legal marriages of same-sex couples from other jurisdictions like Canada. A number of localities, state programs, businesses, employers and labor unions have followed this advice. Do you believe New York should respect and honor the marriages of same-sex couples from jurisdictions where such marriages are legal?

Support       Oppose

6. While current law might prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in areas like housing, public accommodations, credit, education and employment, there is no specific statute outlawing such discrimination in New York. Do you support legislation like the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

8. Do you support transgender New Yorkers having equal health care insurance coverage for things like hormone treatments, appropriate routine medical care and screening, and gender-confirming surgery?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

**continued...**

9. New York State currently provides funding for community based organizations providing health and human services to the LGBT community in areas involving youth, seniors, substance abuse, and mental health. The Pride Agenda administers a Network of over fifty of these CBO's that advocate for and administer these funds. Do you support specific state funding for community-based programming related to LGBT health and human service programs beyond HIV / AIDS and would you continue to include this funding in your executive budget?

Support  Oppose

10. Do you support an increase in funding for the treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS and the implementation of age-appropriate, medically accurate HIV/AIDS and sex education curricula in schools?

Support  Oppose

11. Do you support initiatives to strengthen the enforcement of human rights laws, such as ensuring sufficient funding for the State Division of Human Rights to fulfill its duty to investigate complaints in a fair and timely manner, and earmarking funds to educate employers and the public at large on state human rights laws like the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA)?

Support  Oppose

12. Do you believe that state relief programs such as workers compensation and accidental death benefits for police and firefighters should be fully inclusive of same-sex partners / spouses?

Support  Oppose  I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

13. While spouses do not have to pay taxes on health insurance provided through their husband or wife's employer, domestic partners are taxed on health benefits that they acquire through their partner. Do you support making domestic partner health benefits exempt from state taxation just as spousal health benefits are?

Support  Oppose  I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

14. Do you believe that the State of New York should only do business with companies that extend to domestic partners of their employees the same benefits (such as health insurance and bereavement leave) that are extended to spouses?

Support  Oppose  I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

16. Do you support legislation that would allow localities to do business only with companies that extend to domestic partners of their employees the same benefits that are extended to spouses?

Support  Oppose  I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

17. Currently, New York allows only married couples and couples legally sharing a child access to Family Court for an order of protection from domestic violence. In this way, New York currently offers to least protection from domestic violence in the nation. Do you support legislation to allow unmarried couples, including same-sex domestic partners, to have access to NY Family Court for things like orders of protection?

Support  Oppose  I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

18. Do you support the allocation of public resources to organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, such as the Boy Scouts of America, Inc.?

Support  Oppose

**continued...**

19. Do you believe that youth in juvenile justice and other facilities operated by the Office of Children and Family Services should be protected from discrimination and bias harassment based on sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

20. Do you support legislation to ensure that students are protected from discrimination and bias harassment based on sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression in school, including teacher training on how to handle bias-based harassment, and student curriculum on respect for diversity?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

21. Many small employers who want to offer health coverage for the domestic partners of their employees cannot find an insurance company that will sell them such coverage, with insurance companies refusing to sell domestic partner coverage to employers with fewer than 50 employees. Do you feel insurance companies should be required to sell domestic partner insurance policies on the same basis as spousal insurance coverage?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

22. Do you support legislation to allow domestic partners to make medical decisions for partners who are unable to do so for themselves?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

23. Do you support legislation that prohibits employers who provide funeral leave to employees from denying leave on the same basis to same-sex committed partners?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

24. Do you support legislation that would allow employees to use sick time to care for a sick family member, including domestic partners?

Support       Oppose       I would co-sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal

25. Do you support a woman's unrestricted right to reproductive freedom, including abortion?

Support                       Oppose

What restrictions, if any, would you place on this right (parental consent requirements, a ban on so-called "partial birth abortions," etc.)?

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27. What would you do to address the abuse of "party drugs" like crystal methamphetamine within the LGBT community?

28. What actions will you take to help achieve adoption of measures to benefit New York’s LGBT community, including items described in questions 1 through 22 above? (E.g., recruit co-sponsors for legislation, advocate with legislative leadership and / or the Governor on LGBT issues, attend or organize rallies, forums or press conferences, etc.)

29. What methods will you use to stay apprised of the concerns of the LGBT community (e.g., hold an annual town meeting with the LGBT community, assign a staff person to act as liaison to the LGBT community, etc.)?

30. Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Empire State Pride Agenda?

31. Why should members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community support your candidacy?

Signature of Candidate or Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
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Print Name (if other than candidate): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Attn: Ross Levi, Empire State Pride Agenda  
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