

My GLAA Record (2018 Questionnaire)

“Your record is part of your rating. Please feel free to submit any letters to the editor, legislative testimony, campaign literature, or other materials that document your LGBTQ-related record.”

My Bio

Resident in DC since 1976, live in Brightwood neighborhood, Ward 4

Professor Emeritus, Howard University

Chair, Political Policy and Action Committee, DC Statehood Green Party

Member of: ONE DC, Empower DC, the Fair Budget Coalition, Grassroots Planning Coalition, Green Neighbors, Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America, DC for Democracy

Steering Committee: DC Public Banking Center, DC Human Rights City Committee.

Please take note of the DC Human Rights City Committee Reports

Link to DC Human Rights City assessment reports:

<http://afsc.org/resource/report-state-human-rights-dc>

2017 Update:

<https://www.afsc.org/document/2017-dc-human-rights-city-report>

This update has a relevant section on the status of homeless youth with a significant fraction of LGBTQ youth.

From 2015 Report:

“Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation

2012 Recommendations

The human rights of LGBT community must be vigorously protected by proactive action of our District government and its police. The LGBT community should be partners in formulating and implementing these policies.

2015 Updates

In a 2012 study 10% of District residents identified as LGBT (Study conducted by Gallup, as a part of the Gallup “State by State” series. It is thus far the largest random sample of Americans surveyed to identify the national state-by-state percentages of individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender.⁵⁰ The District has a distinct history of supporting issues such as marriage equality and including sexual orientation as a protected class.

Nonetheless, the District has a responsibility to protect and advocate for the human rights of LGBT residents. Homelessness and sexual exploitation of LGTQ youth is an ongoing problem nationally and within the District.

Homelessness and sexual exploitation of LGTQ youth is an ongoing problem nationally and within the District. Since the publishing of the previous report, the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act was passed in 2014. The law provides funding for additional beds designated for LGBTQ youth, and contains provisions that require the Interagency Council on Homelessness to keep data on LGBT youth and make annual recommendations on how best to serve that specific population. Shelters will also be required to amend and update policies regarding protections for and treatment of residents based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including allowing gender nonconforming youth to access gender-specific facilities in accordance with their self-identification.

Compelling evidence has recently been presented by the DC Office of Human Rights regarding serious job discrimination against transgender applicants.⁵¹

2015 Recommendations

We call on our Mayor and Council to take necessary action to end job discrimination against

transgender applicants.”

I have been an active participant in the Save our System Coalition (WMATA) which strongly opposed the harassment of LGBTQ youth.

As a member of the DC Statehood Green Party since its founding in 1999, I have joined many demonstrations against discrimination based on sexual preference. Please take note of this selection from the DCSGP Platform <https://dcsgp.nationbuilder.com/platform>

II. END DISCRIMINATION

1. We oppose discrimination in any form, based on gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, immigration status, or national origin. The D.C. Statehood Green Party is an explicitly anti-racist/anti-oppression organization.

2. We oppose racism in all its forms. We support affirmative action to remedy discrimination in education and employment and, to protect constitutional rights and to provide equal opportunity under the law. We oppose racial profiling and condemn government harassment and targeting of immigrants, and urge equal protection under the law for all residents of the District of Columbia and the United States regardless of immigration status.

3. We oppose discrimination based on sex or gender. We support sustained action, guided by a feminist perspective, on legal, political, social, and economic fronts to eliminate sexism and achieve full equality between men and women. We oppose discrimination against women in the workplace and in the family, and any practice that does not protect and promote equal treatment of women under the law.

4. We support full human rights for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or sexuality. We support education on sexuality in the schools including education about homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism. Same-sex marriage must have the same legal standing as heterosexual marriage. Same-sex couples must have equal adoption rights as heterosexual couples.

My Testimony on the proposed Constitution,
September 27, 2018, attached as separate pdf.

A relevant selection:

“We want to emphasize the top-down undemocratic process that created this “Constitution”, and its gross deficiencies, for example in its Bill of Rights and number of legislators in the House of Delegates in comparison with the visionary 1982 Constitution, the only one ratified by voters (go to <http://statehood.dc.gov/page/statehood-resource-center> for pdfs of both and compare). The Bill of Rights in the 1982 included provisions for freedom from discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, citizenship, national origin, sex, **sexual orientation**, poverty, or parentage, and disabilities (Section 3), right to employment or for those unable to work an income sufficient to meet basic human needs (Section 20) and equal pay for equal and comparable work (Section 21). As such these provisions anticipated the official status by our Mayor and Council as the nation’s first Human Rights City on December 10, 2008 based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent Conventions in international law.” [bold added]

Signed



David Schwartzman
Candidate for DC Council At-Large, DC Statehood Green Party