



## Candidate Questionnaire 2015

**Instructions:** Please return questionnaire via email, fax, or mail:

Email: JamesParrish@EVAdvocates.org

Fax: 804-643-1554

Mail: 530 East Main St Suite 600  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Purpose:** Thank you for taking the time to fill out the Equality Virginia Advocates candidate questionnaire. The questionnaire will help our supporters, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, and its allies know where candidates stand on issues important to them. Your returned questionnaire will also serve as part of the evaluation process for EVPAC's Board in regards to endorsements.

**Publication:** Your answers are "on the record" and will be circulated to all members of the EVPAC Board, and may be shared outside the organization and published to the EV Advocates website.

### **Candidate and Campaign Information:**

Name: Barbara A. Favola

Address: 2319 18<sup>th</sup> Street, N --Arlington, VA 22201

Phone: 703-969-6749

Email: bfavola1@gmail.com

Campaign Website: barbarafavola.org

Campaign Manager: Abigail Fox

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: favolaforstatesenate@gmail.com

### **Race and Election Information**

Office Sought: State Senate Seat

City, County or District of office:

Select One:     Challenger     Incumbent     Open Seat

## Positions

- A. Equality Virginia asks all General Assembly members to sign a [statement](#) that they do not discriminate in their office based on sexual orientation or gender identity. If you are an incumbent, have you signed EV's nondiscrimination statement [[check here](#)]? If you are not, will you sign the nondiscrimination statement if elected? Please include other actions you and your office take to create an open and inclusive workplace for gay and transgender employees.

I have signed the EV nondiscrimination statement. My office reflects my personal values. It is a priority to me to create a welcoming and inclusive workplace and community. I, therefore, hire staff and interns who not only share these values, but also are also willing to publicly promote these values to everyone who contacts my senate office.

- B. Please describe your level of support for the following issues that are legislative priorities for Equality Virginia.

1. **Protecting public employees from discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.**

I have strongly supported past legislative proposals that attempted to achieve this goal and I will patron or co-patron future legislative efforts in this area. I also think it is worth exploring what administrative authority the Governor has to achieve this goal. Even if the Governor's administrative authority is not crystal clear, it might be worth asking for an administrative fix. I believe it is slightly harder for a Republican majority to overturn a practice that is already in place than it is to proactively pass pre-emptive legislation.

2. **Ensuring that LGBT Virginians have equal access to public accommodations and housing.**

I strongly support legislation that would ensure equal housing protections to members of the LGBT community.

**C. Please describe your level of support for the following issues that are important to EV and Virginia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and allied community.**

**1. Banning "conversion therapy" practiced on LGBT minors.**

I strongly support legislation that would ban "conversion therapy" for LGBT minors. Studies show that the most effective behavior therapy strategies help individuals accept themselves and become comfortable in their own skin. Applying a strategy that would create conflict within a person's psyche is dangerous and damaging. Minors are already anxious and confused about their sexuality and their gender identity, deliberately adding to this internal conflict through conversion therapy strategies could very well push some adolescents into a suicidal mode.

**2. Protecting all LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace.**

I have certainly tried to protect State employees from real or perceived discrimination based on LGBT issues or gender identity issues. (See my response to Question 1). Many companies, including Fortune 500 companies, already have policies in place to protect LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace. However, I would support State and Federal legislation that required private employers to put such policies in place.

Lastly, I do believe that the State and Federal governments have a powerful responsibility to lead the way in showcasing our publicly held values, so the priority of Equality Virginia to protect State employees from the above mentioned discrimination is the right priority for these times.

**3. Removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the Virginia Constitution.**

I strongly support removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the State Constitution. Fortunately, the recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court makes the amendment irrelevant, but it would send a wonderful "welcoming" message to the world if the General Assembly did remove the Amendment. In many respects, the marketing logo: "Virginia is for Lovers" would actually be true.

**D. Provide any additional information regarding your involvement in or support for the LGBT community.**

I have been a long time member of the Arlington Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA). Over the years, I have attended many events sponsored by PFLAG. These events were held in collaboration with the Faith Community and I believe were very effective in building a united and inclusive community. In 2014, I hosted the AGLA Scholarship Fundraising Event at my home. Moreover, I periodically attend the AGLA monthly meetings and brunches at Freddie's Beach Bar in Crystal City.

As a former Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, I fought to ensure that Northern Virginia received its fair share of Ryan White dollars. This effort directly helped the Whitman Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia and supported other community-based services for AIDS clients.

Lastly, as a member of the Arlington County Board, I advocated for a policy that would have allowed the Arlington County government to provide health coverage to a new category of employees, same sex couples. Of course, I voted for this policy change, as well. Unfortunately, conservative groups took the County to court and we lost our case based on the Judge's interpretation of the Dillon Rule.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this questionnaire. I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the Equality Virginia PAC.