



## Candidate Questionnaire 2015

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

Email: JamesParrish@EAdvocates.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: Dave Marsden

Address: P.O. Box 10889 Burke Virginia 22009

Phone: 571-249-3037

Email: [david.marsden37@gmail.com](mailto:david.marsden37@gmail.com)

Campaign Website: marsdenforsenate.com

Campaign Manager: Tommy Keefe

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: 703-217-2605 / keefetr@gmail.com

### **Race and Election Information**

Office Sought: Senate

City, County or District of office: 37

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 a non-discrimination policy for my legislative and campaign offices. I have also employed members of the LGBT community as legislative assistants, campaign managers, and other positions in my offices.

- 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 support protecting public employees from discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. I have co-sponsored and voted in favor of legislation in the past and will continue that support. Every Virginian should have the opportunity to make a living without the fear of losing their job to discrimination.

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

I support ensuring LGBT Virginians have equal access to public accommodations and housing. Given the opportunity to vote in favor of such legislation I would do so. Ensuring equal access to public accommodations and housing will create communities that are welcoming to all.

- 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 support banning conversion therapy for LGBT minors. Many major health organizations believe the use of gay conversion therapy is ineffective and harmful to individuals. Homosexuality is not a disorder and should not be treated that way.

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

I support protecting all LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace. Every Virginian should have the opportunity to make a living without the fear of losing their job to discrimination.

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

**I support removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the Virginia Constitution. It should have gone long ago and with the Supreme Court of the United States declaring a ban on same sex marriage unconstitutional that is more obvious than ever before. We should not have amendments in the Virginia Constitution that contradict the United States Supreme Court or violate our values.**

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

**I have a long record of supporting and advocating for LGBT rights. From having a full non-discrimination policy for my office and campaigns, co-sponsoring and supporting pro-LGBT legislation, speaking out on equal rights issues, and attending LGBT events. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to discussing my candidacy, record, and future goals with you.**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. If you have any questions, please contact Equality Virginia Advocates at 804-643-4816 or [JamesParrish@EAdvocates.org](mailto:JamesParrish@EAdvocates.org).