



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: Jennifer Wexton

Address: 20 West Market St, Leesburg VA

Phone: (703) 672 3696

Email: senator@wextonforstatesenate.com

Campaign Website: www.senatorwexton.com

Campaign Manager: Ray Rieling

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: (703) 217 4054 / ray@wextonforstatesenate.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: State Senate, 33rd District

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 am proud to have signed this statement.

- 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 signed the EV Advocates non-discrimination statement for my office, and I am strongly in support of protecting public employees from discrimination of any kind. I would vote for legislation that would make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in Virginia.

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

In the 2015 session I introduced SB917 which would have made it unlawful to discriminate in housing on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Unfortunately, the bill was killed in committee (on a tie vote) but I would be proud to introduce it again, and support other similar legislation.

- 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 am strongly opposed to this process and would vote for legislation to ban it in the Commonwealth

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

I have signed the EV Advocates non-discrimination statement, and as a former prosecutor I realize how important it is for us to work to eliminate discrimination of any kind from the workplace. I would support legislation aimed at protecting LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace and elsewhere.

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

I strongly support removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the Virginia Constitution and I would vote to do so. I think this is absolutely necessary after the recent SCOTUS decisions, and actions by Attorney General Herring.

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

My first job out of college was at an HIV/AIDS treatment clinic (the Henry Jackson Foundation) that operated out of Bethesda Naval Hospital. This was in 1991-92, during the height of the AIDS crisis, and before even “don’t ask, don’t tell” in the U.S. military. We were on the cutting edge of GP-160 and Interferon treatment protocols, and our patients came to see us regularly and became our friends. Around the same time, my boyfriend’s brother, who was also a good friend of mine, went through the transition to become his sister. These were my friends before the LGBT movement gained the momentum it has now. During these years, I saw firsthand how, due to discrimination and ignorance, the AIDS crisis had to reach epidemic proportions before “conventional” society was willing to address it. I also saw the discrimination my LGBT friends faced on a regular basis, and I knew that whatever the future held for me, I would always work to end it.