



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: Wayne Powell

Address: 421 Branchway Rd. Richmond, VA 23236_____

Phone 804-794-4963: _____

Email: _powell4senate@gmail.com_____

Campaign Website: www.powellforsenate.com_____

Campaign Manager: Keith Carbone

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: keith.carbone@gmail.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: Virginia State Senate 11th District

City, County or District of office:

Select One: ___ Challenger ___ Incumbent _X_ 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.

If elected, I will sign the nondiscrimination statement. No public official should discriminate against potential employees based on who they love or who they marry.

- 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.**

All Virginians who seek to work in the public sector, and improve the quality of life for their friends, neighbors, and families within the state of Virginia deserve to be protected from all forms of discrimination, whether it be because of sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. For this reason I fully support protecting public employees from discrimination based on any real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

No person who lives in the state of Virginia should ever be subject to discrimination because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Every Virginian should have an equal opportunity to access public accommodations and housing within the state. For this reason, if I am elected, I intend to fight to ensure that all Virginians in the LGBTQI community have equal access to public accommodations and housing.

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.

“Conversion therapy” is a cruel and disgusting practice that demeans our state and all Virginians. Forcing minors to undergo untested, unscientific, and immoral “therapy” to change their sexual or gender identity is nothing short of a disgrace. Children, pre-teens, teens, and young adults face enough difficulty in discovering themselves, and their identities, during the formative years. The last thing that any developing Virginia minor needs is to be subject to these “therapies” as a result of societal bigotry. For these reasons, I would strongly support banning the practice of “conversion therapy” in the state of Virginia.

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

All Virginians have the right to work in a place that is free of discrimination. I fully support any efforts to protect LGBT Virginians, as well as all Virginians, from discrimination in their workplaces.

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

Much like laws that once banned inter-racial marriage in the state of Virginia, the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment is an antiquated relic from a darker period in US and Virginia history. In October 2014, the amendment was found to be unconstitutional and has not been enforced. In addition this amendment has been entirely voided by the reason Supreme Court Decision in *Obgerfell v. Hodges*. While I would undoubtedly support any attempt to remove the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the Virginia Constitution, I would not make it a legislative priority since the amendment is entirely symbolic.

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

There are LGBT friends, family and colleagues I care about, but even if I didn't have these relationships I'd still be a solid advocate for equal protection, freedom to love and marry and the rule of law for all.

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