



Candidate Questionnaire

2017 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: Dawn M Adams

Address: PO Box 25331 Richmond VA 23260

Phone: 804.869.4528

Email: Dawn@adamsfordelegate.com

Campaign Website: adamsfordelegate.com

Campaign Manager: Maureen Haines

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: 804.839.5934/ Maureen@adamsfordelegate.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: House of Delegates 68th 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 will of course sign. Gender identification and sexual orientation have nothing to do with employee selection.

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.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: **10**

2. Protecting LGBT Virginians from discrimination in housing.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: **10**

3. Protecting LGBT Virginians from discrimination in public accommodations.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: **10**

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.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: **10**

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

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: **10**

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

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: 10

4. Support for policies in Virginia's public schools protecting students, teachers, and staff from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: 10

5. Opposition to religious exemption bills that exceed the constitutional protection of freedom of religion and provide a license to discriminate against LGBT people.

100% or if on a Likert Scale from 1-10: 10

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

I realized I was a lesbian at age 15. Perhaps my family worried about it earlier than that; I just thought I really liked my female teachers and a couple of friends too much. I grew up understanding the hardships associated with discrimination, none of which need to be detailed. As an adult, I found it very difficult to accept myself because I was convinced that there was something wrong with me because I loved a woman. I know what despair is; and I understand its consequences. I know what it is like to hide in plain sight and hear homophobic slurs. I also know what it's like to be discriminated against at work for the mere thought of who I might be, and the consequences of that. Despite my own inability at the time to accept myself, I made sure that I did what I could do. I cared for the AIDS patients no one wanted in both the hospital and community. I would volunteer to take the patients who were thought to be whatever the stereotype of the day was, so that they would feel cared about even for one shift, and with every year of increased self-acceptance, I would get braver in speaking out against inappropriate comments.

After marriage equality became the law of the land, there was a visceral shift in our culture; and though many people still embrace hate, those on the fence seemed to fall off just enough to let love get the upper hand. With that shift, it seemed safe to come "out" and I have done that in the biggest way I can think of by running as an openly gay/lesbian candidate. My primary issues revolve around the mission of creating a healthy community/Commonwealth. I can think of few things more toxic than the side effects of self-loathing, and I believe it is dangerous for children to teach them that something is wrong with them because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. I would absolutely and actively support banning conversion therapy especially for children. I would also be comfortable fighting for any bill that removes discrimination in any fashion from our housing, employment, education, healthcare, and marriage laws as it pertains to the LGBT+ community in addition to communities of color and religion. It is a false equivalency to state that religious freedom is the same as a right to discriminate. People have the right to their beliefs and their religion, but in America those rights are not weapons for discrimination.

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