

## Candidate Questionnaire 2017

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: **Jeffrey Bourne**

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Address: **PO Box 25907, Richmond, VA 23260**

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Phone: **(804) 338-3064**

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Email: **jeffmbourne@gmail.com or**

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Campaign Website: **<http://www.jeffmbourne.com/>**

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Campaign Manager: **Miles Gordon**

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Campaign Manager Phone/Email: **510-564-5034; milesg1993@gmail.com**

### Race and Election Information:

Office Sought: **Virginia House of Delegate, 71<sup>st</sup> District**

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City, County or District of office: **Richmond**

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? 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 Equality Virginia's nondiscrimination statement.

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

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

- i. I strongly support this. No one should be discriminated against for any reason. We must continue to fight against discrimination in the work place and fight for additional protections for those employees that have experienced disparate treatment. We should place all our focus on the character and competence of an employee, not the individual's partner or gender identity.

- b. Protecting LGBT Virginians from discrimination in housing.**

- i. Housing discrimination is wrong and flies in the face of our most basic rights. I will always stand for equality and fair treatment on any issue before the General Assembly.

- c. Protecting LGBT Virginians from discrimination in public accommodations.**

- i. Everyone and anyone should have the freedom to enter any public or private facility, business or building that is open to the general public. Such indecency and lack of respect for another human is un-American and should not be tolerated by government, business and/or citizens of Virginia.

- 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.**

- a. Banning "conversion therapy" practiced on LGBT minors.**

- i. I would support a ban on conversion therapy for those under 18. Studies do not show that conversion therapy is effective or safe; there is no conclusive evidence that points to conversion therapy practiced on minors being effective later in their adult lives.

- b. Protecting all LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace.**

- i. I believe both, public and private sectors, should be free from workplace discrimination that affects LGBT community members. Hiring, promotion, and/or demotion decisions should be made solely on merit and performance. A person's success in the workplace should not be determined in any way by the color of their skin, what God they might pray to or who they may love.

- c. Removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the Virginia Constitution.**

- i. I would, without reservation, strongly support removing this amendment from the Virginia Constitution.

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

- i. I have supported these protections in the past while I was Chair of the Richmond School Board. When the marriage equality decision was handed down, I led the school board to direct the superintendent to determine the most effective way to ensure that our school system was compliant with that law in our practices and policies. For our students we worked hard to make sure that our first and most important priority was achieved—making sure our students had a safe and healthy learning environment regardless of the race, neighborhood or sexual orientation.

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

- i. I would oppose any measure that exceeds the constitutional protection of freedom of religion.

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

Equality for all is a true Virginia value. If we are going to create the Commonwealth everyone wants then we have to be steadfast in setting those policies that foster an open environment. No person should be singled out and discriminated against for any reason.