



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: Mark Levine

Address: 805 Rivergate Place, Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 804-698-1045 (Richmond); 571-234-8481 (Alexandria); 703-599-6121 (personal cell)

Email: Mark@MarkforDelegate.com

Campaign Website: MarkforDelegate.com

Campaign Manager: None

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: NA

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: Delegate – 45th District

City, County or District of office:
(unopposed)

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 signed the nondiscrimination statement two years ago.

As an openly gay man, I would never take sexual orientation or gender identity into account in making employment decisions. In fact, I have introduced HB 2129 and HB 1005 to prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

- 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.**

Highest level of support. In fact, I introduced HB 2129 and HB 1005 to ban workplace discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

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

Highest level of support. My bills, HB 2129 and HB 1005 also prohibited housing discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

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

Highest level of support. My bills, HB 2129 and HB 1005 also prohibited discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

- 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.**

Highest of level of support. In fact, I co-patroned HB 427 to do just that.

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

Highest level of support. As noted above, HB 2129 and HB 1005 would have prohibited such workplace discrimination.

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

Highest level of support. In fact, I co-patroned SJ 216 and chief co-patroned HJ 538 to do just that.

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

Highest level of support. No public school should discriminate, and I’m proud to represent three inclusive jurisdictions that prohibit any such discrimination in their schools. I will take any action necessary to extend that throughout the Commonwealth.

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

Highest level of opposition. Not only have I voted against HB 773 and HB 2025, which would allow for LGBT discrimination, but I spoke out against HB 2125 on the House floor, challenging the patron directly.

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

Not only am I a member of the LGBT community, but I’ve been advocating for LGBT causes for over 20 years. I was among the first to push for same-sex marriage in California back in the 1990’s, when others were insisting that we were going too far.

I’m one of four co-founders of Marriage Equality California in 2000 (the second oldest marriage-equality organization in the nation), and organized one of the nation’s earliest civil-disobedience marriage protests, a practice that ended up spreading nationwide every Valentine’s Day.

I co-authored the first full-equality (state and federal) bill for same-sex couples ever to be introduced in the USA. It was introduced in California by an Assemblyman (Paul Koretz) I helped elect.

I co-authored the same-sex marriage law that passed in the District of Columbia. I also testified in favor of it before the City Council and, as an attorney, defended it in court against the prospect of a voter referendum on it. The DC Court of Appeals upheld the argument that you “can’t take a vote on civil rights.”

I’ve consistently advocated for the LGBT community, since long before I began seeking elected office, and I will continue to fight for full, equal LGBT rights as long as I serve in elected office at any level.