



**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: Schuyler VanValkenburg  
Address: PO Box 28782, Richmond, VA 23228  
Phone: (804) 629-9656  
Email: vanvalkenburg4va@gmail.com  
Campaign Website: www.vanvalkenburg4va.com  
Campaign Manager: Rich Thuma  
Campaign Manager Phone/Email: (617) 930-1130 / richthuma@gmail.com

**Race and Election Information**

Office Sought: Delegate, 72nd House District  
City, County or District of office: Henrico County, 72nd House District  
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.

If elected, I will happily sign a statement of non-discrimination. My campaign promotes an open and inclusive workplace and my official office will as well. Furthermore, I will work to make sure that no workplace can discriminate against members of the LGBTQ+ community.

- 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.**

No employer should be allowed to discriminate based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. I fully support, and will actively advocate for, legislation that bans discrimination in the hiring process and in the workplace.

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

I fully support, and will actively advocate for, legislation that bans discrimination in housing.

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

I fully support, and will actively advocate for, legislation that protects LGBTQ+ Virginians from discrimination in public accommodations.

- 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 strongly and wholeheartedly support laws banning so-called "conversion therapy. I agree with the APA when it opposes "conversion therapy" because it 'is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the prior assumption that the patient should change his/her sexual orientation'. Conversion therapy should be banned in Virginia.

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

Nobody should face discrimination in the work place. I full support legislation that bans all workplace discrim

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

I fully support removing the Marshall Newman Marriage Amendment from the constitution.

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

As a public school teacher, I believe that the only way for all children to learn is to have an inclusive environment where all students feel that they are fully a part of the class, school, and community. I fully support policies that protect students, teachers, and staff from discrimination in the school setting.

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

I oppose any attempt to create a religious exemption to anti-discrimination protections. This applies to legislation, constitutional amendments, and any other measures that might be taken.

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

Equal protection under the law and the opportunity for all people to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the bedrock ideals of America. One of the first jobs of a legislator is to protect those ideals, whether it be passing anti-discrimination legislation, promoting inclusiveness in schools, or publicly standing up to attempts to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community.

As a teacher, I have seen the negative influence politicians and leaders can have when they promote a hateful agenda. As a candidate, I have been and will continue to be a voice pushing against those policies, and if elected I will oppose them with my vote in the House of Delegates as well.