



**Candidate Questionnaire 2017**

**Instructions:** Please return questionnaire via email, fax, or mail:

Email: JamesParrish@EAdvocates.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: David Reid  
Address: PO Box 4132, Ashburn, VA 20148  
Phone: 703-622-2915  
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Campaign Website: www.reidfordelegate.com  
Campaign Manager: Kathryn Sorenson  
Campaign Manager Phone/Email: 703-887-7993, kmsorenson@gmail.com

**Race and Election Information**

Office Sought: Virginia House of Delegates  
City, County or District of office: District 32 (Eastern Loudoun County)  
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 be proud to sign EV's nondiscrimination statement and will include it in my submitted questionnaire so that I will be on the record on equality prior to taking office. As a program manager, I have hired hundreds of employees and contractors and have never taken into consideration the applicant's sexual orientation and/or gender identity. My legislative office will have a zero tolerance policy for discrimination of any kind.

- 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.**

I will support and advocate for a state law that protects employees in both the private and public sector from discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

I believe Virginia should prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This is particularly important for older same-sex couples who face discrimination when they apply for senior housing. While I am thankful for the LGBT-friendly Realtors who help same-sex couples find and buy homes, we need enforceable anti-discrimination protections that include provisions to train the housing sector on how to comply and welcome LGBT applicants.

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

While it was a tremendous civil rights achievement to legalize same-sex marriage, we must never give up the quest for equality and recognize that there is more work to be done. I will oppose anti-LGBT legislation, like Delegate Marshall's "bathroom bill," which would have enshrined bigotry into our state law and further demonstrated how disconnected Richmond Republicans have become with the priorities of their constituents. I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to advance legislation to prohibit 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 am strongly opposed to conversion therapy because I agree with the majority of medical and mental health associations that have found conversion therapy to be unnecessary, ineffective, and dangerous. Both the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association oppose therapy that is based on the assumption that homosexuality is a disorder.

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

I strongly support protecting all LGBT Virginians from discrimination in the workplace.

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

I will work with Senator Adam Ebbin and Delegate Mark Sickles to continue their fight to repeal the amendment from the Virginia Constitution. Not only is it unconstitutional and unenforceable, it is not in line with the core American values of equality and inclusion.

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

I will stand with my district's school board members who are fighting for LGBT protections for students, teachers, and staff here in Loudoun County. We must do more to prevent bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity and provide support to students.

**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 do not believe the freedom of religion should be distorted to provide a license to discriminate our LGBT neighbors.

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

As I talk to neighbors from all walks of life about my campaign, I've learned that the issues people care about and the concerns they expect their delegate to address are about community values, not division based on sexual orientation. The rising burden of tolls on family budgets, the crushing inefficiency of traffic congestion, the college tuition hikes and stagnating wages-- these issues impact all of us. As delegate, I will focus on results that benefit every constituent, not discriminatory legislation. As a high schooler, my foster father told me stories from his time as a journalist covering the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South. These stories ingrained in me the belief that the struggle for equality and justice every American does not end with one law, one court decision, or one election-- every day we must stand up to injustice and know that when we don't, that silence is betrayal.