



EQUALITY MONTGOMERY COUNTY **2006 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Equality Montgomery County promotes equality and full participation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals in Montgomery County through advocacy, education, community outreach, and partnership. We are a non-profit organization and do not endorse candidates for public office. We will disseminate responses to this candidate questionnaire to our membership and the public through our newsletter and by posting the results on our website.

Please return your form by August 14, 2006, to Scott Davenport (EMCQ President) via:

- Mail to EMCQ c/o Scott Davenport, 7802 Aberdeen Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814;
- Fax to Scott Davenport at (301) 907-4739; or
- Email to scott@emcq.org .

Please answer all questions and check only one box for each question.

Candidates and/or campaign staff should feel free to contact Chuck Butler (EMCQ Advocacy Chair) at (301) 775-7425 or at cjbutler68@hotmail.com with any questions.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Bette Petrides

Office Sought: County council at-large

District Number (if applicable): _____

Political Party: Democrat

Candidate Status: Incumbent Challenger Open Seat

Contact Information

Committee Name: Friends of Bette Petrides

Campaign Address: 7370 MacArthur Boulevard

Email Address: bette@wildbird.com

Campaign Phone: 301-229-2600 Fax: _____

Campaign Manager: Janet Hunt McCool (acting)

Questions

1. Montgomery County and the State of Maryland prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Do you support adding protection for gender identity and expression¹ to Montgomery County's antidiscrimination code?

Yes No

2. Several jurisdictions across the country have enacted an Equal Benefits Ordinance ("EBO"), which prohibits a jurisdiction from conducting business with companies that discriminate against families headed by same-sex couples. An EBO states that companies that conduct business with a particular city, county, or state cannot offer spousal benefits to employees without also offering same-sex domestic partner benefits to employees. Do you support enacting an "Equal Benefits in County Contracts" ordinance in Montgomery County?

Yes No

3. During Maryland's 2006 Legislative Session, certain lawmakers introduced an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to prohibit marriage, civil unions, or the recognition of a "relationship between parties of the same sex, by whatever name or title" that confers any of the benefits of marriage. This proposed constitutional amendment could nullify the right of local governments to offer domestic partner benefits. Do you oppose this amendment and any similar attempts to amend the Maryland Constitution to deny rights to same-sex couples?

Yes No

¹ The terms "gender identity and expression" refer to all those who are gender variant, i.e., those persons whose sexual identity or gender expression varies from the common social forms. This group includes transsexual women and men, cross-dressers, drag queens and kings, androgynous persons, gender queer youth and some members of the intersexed community.

4. This year, the District of Columbia joined several jurisdictions across the country in establishing an Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs as a cabinet-level office within the Executive Office of the Mayor to define issues of concern to the LGBT community and find ways to employ government resources to address those issues. Do you support establishing an Office of LGBT Affairs in the Office of the Montgomery County Executive?

Yes No

I think this is a good idea, but should fall under purview of the executive branch.

5. In 2000, the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department established the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit to act as a link between the LGBT community and the Police Department in law enforcement, education, business, community events, government functions, recruiting, and other areas. Do you support the establishment of a Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit in the Montgomery County Police Department?

Yes No

6. Recognizing that in Montgomery County Schools an environment of tolerance for students' use of homophobic epithets still exists, do you support an allocation of funds to the Montgomery County Department of School Safety and Security dedicated specifically to stronger enforcement of the Safe Schools Policy?

Yes No

7. Do you support a comprehensive sex education curriculum in Montgomery County Schools that, while stressing the importance of abstinence for teens, provides students with information on sexually transmitted diseases based on established scientific evidence, and recognizes, again based on established scientific evidence and the conclusions of every mainstream medical and mental health professional association (including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association), that sexual orientation is not a choice and homosexuality is not a medical or other disorder?

Yes No

8. Do you agree that notions of so-called "conversion" or "reparative" therapy, which have been explicitly opposed by the American Medical Association (see AMA Policy Number H-160.991 published at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14754.html>), should not be part of the health education curriculum?

Yes No

9. Given that LGBT parents and their children as well as LGBT youth and educators are all part of the Montgomery County Schools community and bring unique experiences and needs to the schools, do you support a specific allocation of funds to cultural competency training on LGBT issues for Montgomery County teachers?

Yes No

10. Would you speak out in support of measures that advance the cause of equality for LGBT people and their families?

Yes No

11. Do you feel that you could benefit from additional education on LGBT issues to help you discuss these issues with constituents and/or the media?

Yes No

12. Please provide any additional information that would educate the voters on you and your positions.

9 should be covered by human rights training allocations already provided.

11 I am particularly interested in protecting children in partner situations where the biological parent is ill or dies. Although I am not sure how much of this the County government can influence, I would like more information about cases and efforts dealing with the child of that parent's right to stay within a loving home with the partner if that is the child's choice and would like to know what financial support, insurance, or/and health care is available to support this.

I have reviewed the above responses and attest to their accuracy.

Bette Petrides
Printed Candidate Name

Candidate's Signature

Date

By Authority of Timothy M. Fisher, Treasurer