

THE DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS

2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

STATE LEGISLATORS

NOTE TO CANDIDATES: The information you provide on this questionnaire will be posted on the Dolphin Democrats website and social media. Please include a recent photo of yourself to be posted with your questionnaire

Candidate Name: Gary Farmer

Office Sought: Florida State Senate, District 34

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Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? -No

Are you a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus? -No

Do you identify as LGBT? -No

Are you a member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee? -No

Would you condemn instances of hate speech in your district? -Yes

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.
-Yes, I have always believed in the privacy right of a woman to choose what to do with her own body. This mentality was fostered from my early years by my strongly Democratic parents, and continues to be reinforced today by my wife and two daughters. I don't want to live in a world where they cannot control their own bodies. Because of the potential change in leadership in Tallahassee in the coming years it may become possible for State Legislators to begin expanding access to quality healthcare clinics that provide abortion services. It's not enough to simply stop the attacks; legislators must create a plan that expands access to quality service for all who seek this procedure. This is something I will fight for every session.

Have you ever registered to participate in a LGBT Pride parade (e.g. The Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Parade)? If so, how many, when were they, and where were they held?
-Yes, I marched in this past Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Parade alongside Congresswoman Lois Frankel and Congressman Ted Deutch. My campaign also had a booth stationed in the lower blue section of the festival. I was both happy and excited to receive the endorsement of, and march next to, Congresswoman Lois Frankel who has been a staunch ally of the LGBT community for many years.

Do you support legislation that would require background checks for all gun purchases?
-Yes, I've made this a central issue of my campaign. Universal background checks, a complete ban of all assault weapon sales in Florida, and supporting the no-fly no-buy list are just a few common sense gun safety reforms I believe we need in Florida. I will NEVER flip on this issue and cow-tow to any special interest promoting the opposite.

Would you sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to require background checks for all gun purchases?
-Yes, on day 1.

Do you believe it should be illegal for anyone on the No-Fly list to purchase a gun?
-Yes

Would you sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to make it illegal for anyone on the no-Fly list to purchase a gun?
-Yes

Do you support legislation to ban clips that hold more than ten rounds?
-Yes

Would you sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to ban clips that hold more than ten rounds?

-Yes

Would you support non-discrimination legislation that would make it illegal to fire someone and/or deny them housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression?

-Yes

Would you co-sponsor this legislation?

-Yes

Would you oppose legislation that restricts access to restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities for transgender persons?

-Yes

Do you agree that no member of the Florida National Guard should be charged under the Universal Military Code of Justice 925 Article 125 regarding sodomy even if called to active duty under article 10?

-Yes, that article is a remnant of a discriminatory design in our military that has no purpose.

Do you support marriage equality for same-sex couples?

-Yes

Do you support requiring the Florida Retirement System to recognize a same sex married spouse retroactively as a beneficiary as they do now for different sex married couples?

-Yes

Do you support repealing Florida's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and prohibits interstate recognition of same-sex marriage?

-Yes

Would you oppose attempts to change Florida law to block gay people from being foster parents in Florida?

-Yes

Would you oppose any attempts to reinstate Florida's ban on LGBT adoption?

-Yes

Do you support fair adoption rights for LGBT people?

-Yes, I support equal rights for all.

Would you oppose legislation offering religious exemptions to adoption agencies wanting to discriminate against LGBT couples?

-Yes

Do you believe school districts should be required to include specific protections against bullying and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin or disability?

-Yes

Do you support creating a Domestic Partnership registry for state residents and providing protections, such as hospital visitation rights, for registered domestic partners?

-Yes

Do you support domestic partner benefits for unmarried public employees?

-Yes

Would you oppose legislation allowing organizations or businesses to refuse service to LGBT persons based on personal or religious objections?

-Yes

Do you believe sexual orientation and gender identity should be classifications under hate crimes laws?

-Yes

Would you support legislation to ban 'conversion therapy', a range of dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression?

-Yes

Would you support legislation requiring fair and equal access to essential healthcare for transgender persons?

-Yes

Would you support efforts in our public schools to provide HIV/STI prevention education?

-Yes

Do you support teaching comprehensive age-appropriate sex education programs in our public schools?

-Yes

Would you support legislation creating and regulating safe houses for sexually exploited youth?

-Yes

Would you support legislation creating a Florida Human Trafficking Task Force including a coordinated reporting system and state hotline to report Human Trafficking in Florida?

-Yes

Would you support legislation creating a statewide needle exchange program?

-Yes

Would you support legislation regulating pricing and the affordability of medications to treat HIV?

-Yes

Would you oppose legislation allowing prosecution of HIV-positive people for activities that have virtually no risk of transmitting the virus but are perceived as exposure, even when HIV is not transmitted?

-Yes

Do you support Medicaid expansion?

-Yes

Do you support legislation allowing Medicaid and Medicare to bargain pricing with pharmaceutical providers for volume discounts?

-Yes

Please state in 125 words or less what you feel are the strengths you bring, the primary goals you have for the office you are seeking, and why you feel the LGBT Community should support your candidacy.

-I have supported equality for all, and specifically LGBTQA issues, for my entire life. As a volunteer advocate in Tallahassee I fought to add sexual orientation as a protected class under the State Civil Rights Statute, and I fought against the confirmation of John Armstrong for Surgeon General.

Whether it is marriage equality, equal adoption benefits, anti-bullying legislation, or civil protections to ensure that malicious employers do not discriminate against their employees, I have always consistently supported complete equality for all people. I have built my career by helping regular people stand up for their rights. I will do the same in the State Senate, and be a champion on your issues—not just an occasional vote.



By signing this questionnaire, you are stating that if selected you would accept the Dolphin Democrats public support and endorsement.

Signature _____ Date: 07/11/2016

