

THE DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS

2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

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: Alexander "Alex" Lewy

Office Sought: Hallandale Beach City Commission Seat 4

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 4444, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008

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Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? Yes (receipt number for this payment is: 1331-6918-5604-0302.)

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

Do you identify as LGBT? I identify as an ally.

Are you a member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee? Yes

Would you condemn instances of hate speech in your district? Yes and I always have.

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.
Yes, I fundamentally believe in a woman's right to control her own body and determine whether or not she chooses to be pregnant.

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?

I have walked in two pride parades as an elected official although I cannot remember which years. Prior to that, I attended a couple times as a supportive spectator.

Do you support legislation that would require background checks for all gun purchases?

Yes!

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

Yes!

Would you support a policy that lease and event contracts include a prohibition that assault weapons may not be sold on your municipalities' property at any event?

Yes!

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

Yes!

Do you support marriage equality for same-sex couples?

Yes!

Do you support domestic partner benefits for unmarried public employees?

Yes! **And I'm proud to have sponsored and passed a historic Tax Equity Ordinance for Hallandale Beach's Domestic Partner employees during my time on the Commission.**

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

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!

Do you support a municipal ordinance adding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as protected classes for employment, service, and housing in your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support gender identity being determined by the individual?
Yes!

Do you support requiring sensitivity training to address LGBT issues (which are very direly needed for our transgender municipal residents) for public safety employees in your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support a LGBT pride parade (late June) and a Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20th: for transgender around the world murdered every year because they are transgender) held in your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support a living wage for all municipal employees?
Yes! AFSCME has endorsed me and offered their full support. I also support a \$15 minimum wage. My opponent has voted against the budget funding cost of living adjustments to employees' salaries.

Do you support contracts that require competitive bidding also require the contractor to provide a living wage and healthcare benefits to all its employees doing work for your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support requiring municipal contractors to provide a minimum of two weeks paid vacation to their employees who are doing work for your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support your municipal employees right to collective bargaining without any undue interference from your municipality?
Yes!

Do you support child care facilities in your municipality that provide child care services to single parents being partially government subsidized?

Yes! And I voted in support of subsidized after school care programs. My opponent has voted against the budget funding these programs.

Do you support after school and sports programs being offered by your municipality?

Yes! And I voted in support of funding these programs while in office. My opponent has voted against the budget funding these programs.

Do you support legislation requiring healthy food options at day care facilities and municipal after school/sports programs?

Yes! I've also supported "healthier" vending machine options.

Do you support the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully in your municipality without complicated permits being required?

Yes!

Do you support religious exemptions for individuals providing services to the general public in a business to be able to discriminate in employment, housing, or service due to a sincerely held religious belief?

No! Businesses providing services to the general public should NOT be able to discriminate.

Do you support religious organizations who provide community services for the general public, funded by your municipality, still being able to administer those municipal programs if they refuse to provide those same services funded by your municipality to LGBT people?

No! I would not approve any funding to organizations (religious or otherwise) who discriminate.

Do you support a moment of silence rather than a benediction preceding your meetings?

Yes!

Would you be available to attend one of our meetings (7:30 pm, the second Wednesday of every month at The Pride Center 2020 N Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors, FL 33305) where we consider endorsing you for the position you are seeking?

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 was recruited to run because of my history of progressive policies and ability to solve discrepancies in a positive light. I'll work to complete our city wide parks plans, revamp our affordable housing policies and fight for new roadways and more mass transit to reduce traffic. When I met Army Lt. Dan Choi, at a Young Elected Officials meeting, it validated my long held belief that even though I'm not LGBT myself, I can be part of the LGBT community. I have a personal stake in the fight for equality. After all, if the LGBT community doesn't have equality then by definition, neither do I. I haven't just spoken about equality; I stepped up and acted to bring us one step closer to it.

Please accept these news excerpts as further evidence for why the LGBT Community should support my candidacy:

"[Lewy] has also been an outspoken advocate on behalf of the gay and lesbian community."
Sun Sentinel – April 10, 2014

Last year, Wilton Manors Vice Mayor Carson sponsored a think tank to discuss a series of LGBT issues, including equitable local ordinances. As part of this dialogue, Vice Mayor Carson -- with the support of Hallandale Beach Vice Mayor Alexander Lewy -- has requested the Broward League of Cities to establish a work group to educate the representatives of Broward's 31 cities on best practices and how to better value LGBT employees, residents, families and business patrons.

The Bilerico Project – July 30, 2013

Read more at http://www.bilerico.com/2013/07/wilton_manors_adopts_tax_equity.php#hSCsOkYD2w4Wzqgv.99

Lewy stressed his social liberalism, including expanding rights for gay Floridians.

Our Legislature needs someone who has a proven track record of standing up for social justice and equality, said Lewy. I was proud to champion an historic first-in-the-nation initiative to bring tax equity to our domestic partner employees in Hallandale Beach. Social justice is a deep seated value my parents bestowed in me at an early age. Equal pay for equal work, livable wages and individual rights are not talking points or bargaining tools. They are the fundamental principles of freedom and justice this nation was founded on.

Sunshine State News – July 22, 2013

Hallandale Beach is believed to be the first in the state to enact a policy that seeks to offset the taxes assessed on the cost of providing domestic partnership health benefits, which the federal government treats as income.

"Hallandale is one of the first cities in the country to pass [a reimbursement policy]. It may be the only city," Pollitzer said. "It's definitely cutting edge."

The city estimates employees with domestic partner health coverage pay an average of \$940 more in taxes each year as a result of the coverage. The city currently has five employees receiving such coverage, which will bring the cost of the reimbursement program to \$2,500 annually.


"The more local support we have for tax equity and fairness for all our employees, the easier it will be to change federal law," said Hallandale Beach Commissioner Alex Lewy, who suggested the reimbursement after learning about the issue at a Washington conference earlier this year for elected officials. "I really want this to go beyond Hallandale Beach."

South Florida Gay News – Nov. 9, 2012

<http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/Hallandale-Beach-Commissioners-to-Vote-on-Tax-Equity-for-Domestic-Partners-177667731.html>

<http://www.cohb.org/DocumentCenter/View/6366>.

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

Signature  Date: 8/24/2016

