

# 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: [Arlene R. Schwartz](#)

Office Sought: [Margate City Commission Seat 2](#)

Campaign Mailing Address: [7800 NW First Street Margate, FL 33063](#)

Campaign Phone: [954-971-9209](#)

Candidate Phone: [954-971-9209](#)

Campaign e-Mail: [arlene@arleneschwartz.com](mailto:arlene@arleneschwartz.com)

Campaign Website: [none available at this time](#)

Campaign Facebook URL: [I have a personal Facebook page, but not one specifically dedicated to my campaign.](#)

Campaign Twitter: [None](#)

Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? [Not at this time](#)

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? [Absolutely! I would condemn hate speech everywhere it takes place.](#)

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.  
[As a woman, I believe I have the absolute right to control all decisions regarding my health and welfare including, but not limited to decisions regarding my body. While it is certainly better to prevent an unwanted pregnancy through education and birth control, when those options are no longer feasible, I believe other options should be available to prevent a child from being born into an](#)

environment that does not want or cannot take care of him/her. Terminating an unwanted pregnancy is one of the most emotionally difficult and psychologically challenging decisions a woman can make. No one should have the right to interfere with a woman's right to choose what is right for her.

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? **No**

Do you support legislation that would require background checks for all gun purchases? **Yes, I do.**

Do you believe it should be illegal for anyone on the No-Fly list to purchase a gun? **Yes, unless that person can prove to the appropriate authorities that he/she poses no risk. I realize that on rare occasion a person can be placed on the "No-Fly list" and truly not belong there. I remember when Sen. Ted Kennedy was mistakenly placed on that list.**

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, I would.**

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, and I would also include in that legislation discrimination based upon disability and age.**

Would you oppose legislation that restricts access to restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities for transgender persons? **Yes, I would.**

Do you support marriage equality for same-sex couples? **Absolutely. I support marriage equality for anyone in a committed relationship.**

Do you support domestic partner benefits for unmarried public employees? **Yes, I do.**

Would you oppose legislation allowing organizations or businesses to refuse service to LGBT persons based on personal or religious objections? **Yes, I would definitely oppose this legislation and any legislation designed to target any American for discrimination.**

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, I would. I don't consider a person's sexual orientation or gender identity to be a "condition" in need of "therapy."**

Would you support legislation requiring fair and equal access to essential healthcare for transgender persons? **Absolutely, what difference does a person's gender make when seeking healthcare?**

Would you support efforts in our public schools to provide HIV/STI prevention education? **As a former Broward County Public School administrator, I absolutely would.**

Do you support teaching comprehensive age-appropriate sex education programs in our public schools? **Yes, I do. Perhaps that would "demystify" the subject, ease the trauma most parents go through when attempting to have "the talk" and prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in children who experiment because they do not truly understand the consequences of their actions.**

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

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? **Absolutely!**

Would you support legislation creating a statewide needle exchange program? **Yes, I would.**

Do you support a municipal ordinance adding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as protected classes for employment, service, and housing in your municipality? **Absolutely! In fact, at a recent City Commission meeting (August 24, 2016), I requested that Margate consider adding the following statement to every City document and publication. "The City of Margate, Florida prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation."**

**As a former School Board employee specializing in adult education, we added a similar disclaimer to all of our publications and forms years ago.**

Do you support gender identity being determined by the individual? **Yes, I do.**

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? **Absolutely! Every resident should be treated with equal respect and dignity by every city employee.**

Do you support a LGBT pride parade (late June) and a Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20<sup>th</sup>: for transgender around the world murdered every year because they are transgender) held in your municipality? **Yes, I do. How truly sad that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we as a society have progressed so little that people are victimized and targeted for violence simply because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. It is truly a tragedy that there should be a need for such a day of remembrance.**

Do you support a living wage for all municipal employees? **Absolutely! I support a living wage for all workers regardless of their employer.**

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, I do.**

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. As a 35 year School Board employee, I never earned one day of paid vacation leave. I think that's wrong.**

Do you support your municipal employees right to collective bargaining without any undue interference from your municipality? **I certainly do.**

Do you support child care facilities in your municipality that provide child care services to single parents being partially government subsidized? **Yes, I do.**

Do you support after school and sports programs being offered by your municipality? **Yes, I do.**

Do you support legislation requiring healthy food options at day care facilities and municipal after school/sports programs? **Yes, I do.**

Do you support the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully in your municipality without complicated permits being required? Yes, I do.

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, I do not support discrimination of any kind for any reason. If an individual is in business to provide a service to the general public, then he/she should serve all of the general public, without exception.

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 do not. People who identify as LGBT are tax paying members of the general public and, therefore, entitled to all services funded by municipalities regardless of the provider. If the service provider discriminates based upon its religious beliefs, then that organization should be barred from accepting government funding.

Do you support a moment of silence rather than a benediction preceding your meetings? Yes, I do. During the years that I served on the Margate City Commission, it was common practice to request a moment of silence when it was appropriate. We did not then and do not now begin our meetings with a religious benediction.

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? I would be honored to do so.

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 am a proud 34 year Margate resident, who has dedicated my career to serving my community with honesty and integrity. As a Broward County teacher and administrator, I developed educational programs for minority populations on the fringes of society. While serving on various City boards and the Margate City Commission for ten years, I developed a track record for building consensus. Now that the City attorney has retired after 38 years of service, and the last tenured City Commissioner is about to do the same, Margate is at a crossroads, lacking leaders with historical perspective, experience and knowledge upon which to make sound legislative decisions. I believe I can fill that void by using my past political experience to foster an atmosphere of cooperation, inclusion and mutual respect, as well as, collaboration and compromise, traits that many residents feel are currently lacking on the Commission. I believe those qualities are very much in line with the philosophy of the LGBT Community and I would be honored to have your support and endorsement.

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

Signature: *Arlene R. Schwartz*

Date: August 24, 2016