

# 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: Tim Lonergan

Office Sought: Commissioner, City of Oakland Park, Florida

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Campaign Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/TimLonerganCampaign/>

Campaign Twitter: N/A

Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? Yes

Are you a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus? Member in 2012, 2013 and 2014. I was not aware that I didn't renew in 2015. I am now a member for 2016.

Do you identify as LGBT? Yes

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

Would you condemn instances of hate speech in your district? Yes. (Always!)

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.

Yes. I firmly believe in a woman's right to choose. I prefer adoptions, but it's not my decision.

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've proudly participated in the Wilton Manor's Stonewall parade for the past 5 years.

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

Yes, it would be common sense legislation.

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

Yes, it makes sense.

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?

If allowed by law, I would. It's my understanding that I will be removed from office if I try to move this issue forward while an elected official. It's time for changes at the State level in Tallahassee.

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

If allowed by law, I would. It's my understanding that I will be removed from office if I try to move this issue forward while an elected official. It's time for changes at the State level in Tallahassee.

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! Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all!

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, just ask my husband, Floyd. Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all!

Do you support domestic partner benefits for unmarried public employees?

Now that marriage equality is a reality, if a couple is unwilling to get married, I have mixed feeling on the issue. I DO believe in National Healthcare and do believe that the Affordable Care Act needs further enhancement to be sure **ALL Americans** have adequate health care coverage.

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

Yes! Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all!

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! Sadly, I believe that there are many individuals who live their entire life in denial of their true feelings and identity. If someone voluntarily desires to seek counseling on the issue, that's their personal choice. (I'm not referring to anti-LGBTQ organizations)

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! It's part of life. I'd rely on professionals to determine the appropriate age to educate.

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! The key is to keep people from getting sick. Chronic conditions raise the costs of healthcare and complicates lives. It's also important to try to education on the dangers of drugs and ensure that there are legitimate programs in place designed to end drug abuse.

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! It's important that 'identity' be consistent and not transition back and forth based on convenience for the current situation and time.

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! Dignity and Respect must be consistent and maintained.

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?

I would. The residents of Oakland Park often participate in events in Wilton Manor's and at the Pride Center in Wilton Manors. There are benefits in having the residents of the different municipalities come together to celebrate together in one location. I believe Oakland Park does a good job celebrating diversity and the LGBTQ community. Could we do better, possibly, I'd always enjoy more celebrations! We have many cultures, heritages and diverse backgrounds that need to be acknowledged, celebrated and respected.

Do you support a living wage for all municipal employees?

Yes.

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?

It depends on if they are part time temporary or full time employees. I'd need to understand the specifics of the company and contract.

Do you support your municipal employee's right to collective bargaining without any undue interference from your municipality?

Per Wikipedia - Collective bargaining is a process of negotiation between employees and a group of employers aimed at agreements to regulate working salaries. The interests of the employees are commonly presented by representatives of a trade union to which the employees belong. I do believe in fair and reasonable negotiations. I am proud to have been endorsed for the Oakland Park City Commission by the Metro-Broward Professional Firefighters Local 3080!

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

Yes. I'd be willing to review the possibilities for single and married employees. Why exclude married employees?

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

Yes! We already have programs.

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

Yes! I believe we already provide this option.

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

Public safety is a major concern. Permits allow municipalities to prepare and ensure safety for our residents and those participating. I agree it should not be a complicated process.

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! Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all!

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! Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all!

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

As Mayor, I announce a moment of silence at the opening of all Oakland Park Commission Meetings.

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! I am a member. Due to conflicts, I don't attend as much as I would like. I'm also a member of the Oakland Park Democratic Club and attend meetings as possible.

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 to be part of the LGBTQ community! My husband and I have been together for 21 years and have been legally married since 7/31/2015. I consistently advocate Equality, Fairness, Dignity and Respect for all! Our demand is not for special rights, only equal rights! I model the behaviors I expect of others and expect the same in return.

I've worked hard to promote growth and positive change in Oakland Park. Improving the Quality of Life in Oakland Park and Broward County has been a primary goal. I'm a member of the Oakland Park Volunteer Corps and am very active throughout the City! I believe I walk the talk and am asking for your VOTE on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Lonergan \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 8/10/2016 \_\_\_\_\_