Equality Arlington

County Board Democratic Primary Candidate Questionnaire 2025

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1. Under the Trump administration, the federal government is abandoning efforts to enforce federal non-discrimination laws protecting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and the workplace. What actions would you take as a County Board member to ensure that Arlington’s LGBTQ+ residents and workers are protected from discrimination?
   1. I will organize a Civic Culture Summit to see what actions County Institutions can and should take in our immediate and long-term planning.
      1. The summit will establish a Cultural Action Plan that lays out a comprehensive county-wide resolution to shift how residents, workers, and tourists experience Arlington.
      2. For the LGBTQ Community I would work to ensure we include few key events like:
         1. A luncheon with county leaders, LGBTQ+ serving organizations, county partners, and community members.
         2. A County Board Townhall with a panel of leaders from our LGBTQ+ serving organizations
         3. Pannel Sessions with County Leaders to brainstorm specific actions one can take to protect people from cultural and systemic discrimination
   2. I will work to establish measures that shows that Arlington is intolerant of discrimination and hate.
2. Arlington is home to the only gay bar in all of Northern Virginia despite a large LGBTQ+ population across the region and within Arlington County. Many residents would like more safe, affirming, and LGBTQ+ serving spaces in Arlington County especially as the federal law enforcement and national guard takeover of DC makes some Arlingtonians feel unsafe traveling there. What actions would you take as a County Board member to reduce barriers to opening new LGBTQ+ serving businesses in Arlington?
   1. I will work to establish the 22202 zip code as Arlington’s Official LGBTQIA+ Neighborhood. This would include a plan to
      1. Designate 23rd Street as the Queer Main Street
      2. Coordinate with LGBTQIA+ Serving Organizations to headquarter operations and hold functions in the National Landing BID. Including:
         1. Equality Arlington
         2. Arlington Gender Identity Allies
         3. Arlington Pride
         4. Arlington Public Libraries Rainbow Reads Book Club
      3. Open a County Ran Town Hall and Community Center along 23rd Street
         1. All County LGBTQIA+ Functions will be ran out of this new facility including
            1. The LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee
      4. Designate Freddie’s Beach Bar Being as a historically protected business
      5. Create a Fund and Incubator aimed at supporting the opening of LGBTQIA+ Oriented Start-up Businesses in the National Landing BID
      6. Expand Arlington Arts Grants to LGBTQIA+ Focuses like drag expression and affirming artwork.
3. The Trump administration is moving to illegally withhold federal funding from Arlington Public Schools because they refuse to discriminate against transgender students. Arlington Public Schools have steadfastly refused to violate federal and state laws, despite the weaponization of the federal government against them. What support can the County Board provide for Arlington Public Schools and transgender students and their families as they face escalating threats from the federal government?
   1. I will be a firm ally to Arlington County Schools and Administration as they face the regimes attacks on their safe and inclusive environment. Including working to:
      1. Explore what legal options we can take as a county board to direct additional funds to our Schools
      2. Establish agreements with other municipalities to what ways we can provide support to each other and cut out expensive outside services.
      3. Hold regular bilateral clinics with a designated member of the school board to see what concerns our LGBTQIA+ Students, Teachers, Administrators and their families are facing. These clinics will also be used to explore viable and considerate solutions to their concerns.
4. Earlier this year, we learned that the Clarendon Presbyterian Church redevelopment project to build an LGBTQ+ affirming, affordable, senior living community would not move forward. This occurred at a time when affordable housing for all seniors is becoming harder to find and the county’s affordable housing crisis continues. What steps would you take as a County Board member to ensure that low-income LGBTQ+ residents of any age have access to quality, safe, and affordable housing?
   1. I would use the Comprehensive Plan Update Project as it’s currently reconsidering the goals and objectives that were established more than 50 years ago. Through that process, there is the opportunity to push our leaders to rethink how we develop our communities so residents of any age, income, and expression have access to quality, safe, and affordable housing and communities
   2. Another quality-of-life objective would be pushing a tactical pedestrianization of the corridors served by Metrorail Lines to encourage active and thought-provoking solutions to our biggest problems like housing.
   3. Lastly, I won’t act reactively or impulsively to this crisis. We need to consider what we are allowing to be developed while simplifying the development process so that we enable a multitude of occupants and uses. I will work to stop extortionate practices so we can enable community-based development. I will no longer allow profits to outweigh how people experience Arlington.
5. The Trump administration has made massive cuts to public health funding for HIV prevention and treatment which is already impacting Arlington service providers. The administration is also threatening to withhold federal funding from any healthcare organization that provides gender-affirming care for individuals under 19, in opposition to best practices from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, the Endocrine Society, and the World Health Organization. As Arlington residents face vanishing LGBTQ+ affirming and supportive healthcare options in our community and across the country, what support can the County Board provide to ensure that Arlington’s LGBTQ+ adults and youth have access to critical healthcare?
   1. I will work with Arlington Human Services to make sure all health services are still being provided to our LGBTQ+ Residents, Workers and Tourists.
   2. I will work to establish a county-ran health network proving free and confidential access to all critical healthcare services to any resident, worker, or visitor
   3. I will push the county board to go into agreements and commitments with science-based organizations and institution to enable continued access to medical practices under attack by the science denying administration.