



LGBT DEMOCRATS OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Partisans: The PAC of LGBT Democrats of Virginia

Endorsement Questionnaire

Instructions: Please return questionnaire via email to president@vapartisans.org. At the Board's discretion, interviews may be scheduled with candidates prior to making endorsement and contribution decisions.

Note: Your answers are "on the record," will be circulated to all members of the Board, and may be shared outside the organization and published to the LGBT Democrats of Virginia website.

Candidate and Campaign Information

Name: Adam Ebbin

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Campaign Website: www.AdamEbbin.com

Campaign Manager: Kirk McPike

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: kirk@ebbinforvirginia.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: Virginia Senate, District 30

Indicate whether office is partisan or non-partisan: Partisan

City, County or District of office:

Select One: Challenger Incumbent Open Seat

Select One: Caucus Primary General

Election Date(s): August 23, Democratic Primary; November 8, General Election.

Biographical Information

1. Previous elected offices held: 2004-present, Virginia House of Delegates, District 49
2. Candidate bio (include issues relevant to LGBT Community): (Please see attached documents)

3. Are you a member of the LGBT Democrats of Virginia (formerly the Virginia Partisans)? If so, when did you join? *Yes. I am the founder of the Virginia Partisans, and thus joined in 1992.*
4. Have you been endorsed by any LGBT organizations now or in the past? If so, please list years and races. *In this campaign, I have received the endorsement of the Victory Fund and Equality Virginia PAC. The Victory Fund and the Partisans have all supported my previous campaigns for the Virginia House in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.*

Activities

1. Have you attended events for, joined, or otherwise expressed support for LGBT organizations or groups? *Yes. I am a longtime supporter of the Human Rights Campaign, Equality Virginia, the Victory Fund and the Virginia Partisans, which I founded, as well as the Alexandria Gay & Lesbian Community Association and Arlington Lesbian & Gay Alliance.*
2. Have you attended events for, joined, or otherwise expressed support for the Whitman Walker Health, the Tidewater Aids Task Force, GLSEN, SMYAL, or other LGBT and LGBT-related causes or organizations? *Yes. I have walked in the AIDS walk with Whitman Walker Health, spoken before GLSEN, and attended many events for HRC, SMYAL.*
3. Have you ever volunteered for or attended LGBT Pride, an LGBT Youth Prom, or other LGBT or LGBT-related events? *Yes, I have attended more LGBT Pride events and community events than I could count. I also served as the PR Director for DC Pride.*

Positions – Please articulate your views on all the issues below regardless of whether they are Federal, State, or Local in nature and whether you have or, if elected, would have the ability to vote on the issues.

➤ **Discrimination Protection**

1. If elected, would you establish a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation **and** gender identity for your employees? Do you have such a policy in place for your campaign? *Yes, I would, I have and I do. My campaign staff includes one gay and one transgendered person and countless LGBT volunteers.*
2. Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation **and** gender identity in employment and housing? Please address Federal and State versions of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and any relevant local laws. Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *As the first openly gay member of the General Assembly, I have repeatedly filed non-discrimination legislation, and I worked with Governors Warner and Kaine to establish non-discrimination*

policies for state employees. I will continue to vigorously work for non-discrimination laws and policies for LGBT persons in Virginia as a member of the Senate.

3. Have you in the past and do you still now support the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) law? Do you oppose any efforts to implement exclusionary policies based on sexual orientation for the Virginia National Guard? Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *Yes, I do support the recent repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. As a former employee of the Servicemember Legal Defense Fund, I recognize the terrible toll this discrimination has taken on LGBT persons who have sought to serve our nation in uniform. I oppose all discrimination against LGBT Virginians in the uniformed services, including the National Guard.*

➤ **Marriage and Partnership**

4. Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)? Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *I do and have supported the repeal of DOMA.*
5. Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to repeal the Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Virginia Constitution? Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *I chaired the advisory committee of the campaign to oppose the Marshall-Newman Amendment, traveled to Roanoke to speak against it, donated to and organized fundraising events to raise funds supporting efforts to defeat the amendment. I support efforts to repeal it, and have co-patroned legislation to do so several times.*
6. Do you believe that same-sex couples should enjoy the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as their straight counterparts? Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to legally recognize same-sex marriage by both the Federal and Virginia government? Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *I do believe in marriage equality, and have introduced and helped pass legislation that has expanded benefits for domestic partners in Virginia. However, until the courts strike it down or until the Commonwealth repeals the Marshall-Newman amendment, we can not pass marriage equality legislatively. I worked at the Center for Policy Alternatives, where I ran their marriage equality leadership circle and worked with state legislators around the country to advance the cause. This is an area where I hope to continue to lead in the Virginia Senate.*

➤ **Education and Schools**

7. Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support Family Life Education and guidance programs in public schools that offer age-appropriate, non-judgmental information on sexuality, tolerance, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexually transmitted diseases, and contraception? Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored or co-

patroned legislation in the past (if not, please explain why). *Yes, I have and I will. I have focused my LGBT legislative efforts on non-discrimination in state employment, and the advancement of relationship rights such as repealing the Marshall-Newman amendment and adoption rights.*

8. Do you consider harassment of LGBT students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity to be a form of bullying? Would you support legislation that aims to lower the incidents of, and directs schools to put an end to, bullying in public schools and facilities? *Yes, I do believe that bullying against LGBT students is a critical issue, that's why I filed a bill to provide school administrators and local officials with the tools they need to crack down on bullying. My bill was referred to a special study on bullying. This is a critical issue I will continue to work on as a member of the Senate.*
9. Do you support the formation of Gay/Straight Alliance clubs (GSAs) in schools? Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to promote, encourage and provide support and resources for GSAs in schools? *Yes, I do support the formation of GSAs in our public schools, and have worked closely with GSA members during my time in the House. I have been the keynote speaker at a end of the year banquet for GSA students, and led efforts in subcommittee against bills designed to limit GSAs.*
10. Do you support the "It Gets Better Project"? *Yes, I do.*

➤ **HIV/AIDS Prevention, Testing and Treatment**

11. Do you support public funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment facilities? Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support efforts to increase funding for and access to these facilities throughout all regions of Virginia? *Yes, I have supported efforts to increase funding related to HIV/AIDS in the past, and will continue to do so in the Senate. I spoke on the floor of the House to maintain funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.*
12. Do you support free access to HIV/AIDS testing at jail and prison facilities? If so, would you support programs that encourage inmates to get tested for HIV/AIDS? *Yes.*

➤ **Choice and Contraception**

13. Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support a woman's right to choose abortion and to access abortion, birth control and contraception? Would you vote to limit access to abortion, birth control and/or contraception in anyway? If so, how and under what circumstances? *I have a 100% voting record as measured by NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia over the last eight years. I support expanding access to birth control. I am proud of my unquestionable commitment to choice.*

➤ **Other**

14. Choosing political leadership is a key responsibility for every elected official. Will you commit to making support for full equality a major factor in your leadership selection decisions? *It will be a factor, but not the only factor. To my knowledge, it is not publicly known whether all Senators support marriage equality and therefore not full equality overall.*
15. Do you believe it is important for both LGBT individuals **and** allies to “come out”—i.e. share their status as an LGBT individual or an ally to the LGBT community with the public? Do you believe it is important for public officials, in particular, to encourage and support LGBT individuals **and** allies in “coming out”? *Yes, I do. As the only openly gay member of the General Assembly, I know the great value that comes from having openly gay people involved when policies affecting our community are debated. I have been proud to be the voice for LGBT Virginians in the House, and will continue to speak out for our community in the Senate, where the presence of an openly gay member can have even more impact.*
16. If not otherwise described above, how have you advocated for the LGBT community in the community at-large in the past (i.e. have you spoken out publicly for policies at your place of business, testified before government bodies, adopted written policies for your employees, marched for equal rights, etc.)? *I have been an active member of Northern Virginia’s LGBT community for nearly 20 years. As noted above, I founded the Virginia Partisans Gay & Lesbian Club, have worked with Equality Virginia, including volunteering to lobby for its predecessor organization, have supported the Arlington Lesbian & Gay Alliance and Alexandria Gay & Lesbian Community Association, and have been a leader in our community.*
17. If not otherwise described above, in what ways have you worked to include LGBT and other minority individuals in your personal and/or professional life? In what ways have you worked to be a role model for inclusion, tolerance and acceptance of LGBT and other minority individuals? *I have worked with a diverse set of Virginians during my time in the General Assembly, from all across the Commonwealth, and all walks of life. My present campaign manager is gay, and I have had legislative aides from many different communities. Similarly, I have employed as members of my legislative staff people from diverse backgrounds. I have a close relationship with the communities from my House of Delegates District and Northern Virginia, including the Muslim, African-American, Asian American and Hispanic communities, and have a record that clearly speaks to my commitment to inclusion and tolerance.*
18. Please use the space below to provide any additional information you would like us to know about your candidacy.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please contact president@vapartisans.org with any questions.