

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: Barbara Favola

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Arlington, VA 22201

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Campaign Website: www.barbarafavola.org

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: Adam Scott –adam.favolaforsenate@gmail.com 207-992-8484 (mobile)

Race and Election Information:

Office Sought: Virginia State Senate Seat

Indicate whether office is partisan or non-partisan: ---Office is Partisan

City, County or District of Office: 31st District

Select One: Challenger Incumbent Open Seat

Select One: Caucus Primary General

Election Dates(s) August 23, 2011

Biographical Information:

1. Previous elected offices held:

I have served on the Arlington County Board since 1997. I won a general election in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2008.

2. Provide bio (include issues relevant to LGBT Community):

Ms. Favola has served as Chairman and a member of the Arlington County Board since 1997. She served as Chairman of the Board in 2000, 2004 and 2009.

Ms. Favola has been a strong voice for human rights and equality on the County Board. She strongly supported legislative efforts to reinstate "partner benefits" in Arlington County's health plan, she favored including sexual orientation in the Virginia Hate Crimes bill and she publicly opposed the Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Virginia Constitution that banned gay marriage among other things.

Barbara has led a county-wide Roundtable to End Domestic Violence for five years and insisted on reaching out to the LGBT communities to better understand their issues in this area. Because of an extensive educational process and the involvement of the judicial system in the Roundtable, it is now possible for individuals in same sex relationships to get restraining orders in domestic violence cases. This is one of the successes of the Roundtable effort.

Ms. Favola is the Board's leading advocate for children and families. She established mental health services in the public schools and provided a permanent home for the Head Start program. Barbara has also been a strong voice for protecting the Chesapeake Bay. She helped shape Arlington's smart growth policies and ensured that successful storm water management practices were implemented. Barbara has also been recognized for her leadership in the area of affordable housing and was thrilled when the Virginia Housing Development Authority overturned the "Family Rule" that restricted unmarried couples from qualifying for a VHDA loan.

Barbara is a part-time development officer and community liaison for Marymount University. She has successfully raised grant funds for numerous projects and programs such as a Nurse Managed Health Center, scholarship programs, and equipment for science laboratories.

Barbara has a Masters of Public Administration from New York University (1980)

3. Are you a member of the LGBT Democrats of Virginia (formerly the Virginia Partisans)? If so, when did you join?

I am not a member of the LGBT Democrats of Virginia but I am a member of the Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance (AGLA).

4. Have you been endorsed by any LGBT organizations now or in the past?

Although AGLA does not endorse candidates, I have enjoyed the support of many AGLA members and those who have led this organization over the years.

Activities:

1. Have you attended events for, joined, or otherwise expressed support for LGBT organizations or groups?

Yes. I have attended the AGLA Ice Cream Social for the past 10 years. I have attended the AGLA holiday party and other events sponsored by AGLA.

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?

For the past several years, I have donated an auction item to the NOVAM event in Alexandria. I have also attended the NOVAM gala. As a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and former Chair, I worked with other Northern VA jurisdictions to ensure that Ryan White funded services would remain available in Arlington after the Whitman-Walker branch closed. Fortunately, INOVA Juniper opened a branch in Arlington to ensure a continuum of care for the former clients of Whitman-Walker.

3. Have you ever volunteered for or attended LGBT Pride, an LGBT Youth Prom, or other LGBT or LGBT-related events?

I have not attended an organized LGBT event as described above.

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 will certainly put in place a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity when I hire permanent staff as a member of the Virginia Senate. I do not, and never would, discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity – and that is the position of my campaign.

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).

I will support efforts to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and housing. I have always supported Arlington County's human rights ordinance that includes protections on the basis of sexual orientation in employment. Arlington does not have separate anti-discrimination laws regarding access to housing. We follow and enforce the U.S. Fair Housing Act. However, I am very interested in pursuing these kinds of protections at the State level both in the area of employment and housing. As the current Governor removed protections for state employees that had been included in executive orders signed by both Governor Warner and Governor Kaine, I am eager to help in efforts to reinstate these protections through legislative action.

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 have always publicly advocated for the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell law. This was a major accomplishment of President Obama. I would actively oppose any efforts to implement exclusionary policies based on sexual orientation for the Virginia 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).

Yes. I will actively support efforts to repeal the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (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 have publicly supported the repeal of the Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Virginia Constitution, I continue to support the repeal of this amendment and will actively support efforts to achieve this goal as a Senator in the General Assembly.

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).

Yes, I strongly believe that same-sex couples should enjoy the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as their straight counterparts. Enabling individuals to form loving, lasting and legally binding relationships is good for a community and good for society. I have in the past and continue to support efforts to legally recognize same-sex marriage by both the Federal and Virginia government. I will actively support this effort as a Senator in the General Assembly.

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?

Yes! I absolutely will support Family Life Education and guidance programs in the public schools that offer age-appropriate, non-judgmental information on sexuality, tolerance, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexually transmitted diseases and contraception. I am proud that the Arlington Public Schools offer such a program and this program enjoys broad support from the community.

I am aware that LGBT teens have a much higher rate of suicide than other teens and feel very isolated and alone during their formative years. I believe that the Family Life Education program described above is the right thing to do on an individual basis and also from a broader community health-public health perspective.

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 consider the harassment of LGBT students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity to be a form of bullying. I absolutely would support legislation that aims to lower the incidents of, and directs schools to put an end to bullying in public schools and facilities.

I worked with Delegate Adam Ebbin during the 2011 General Assembly session on legislation that would require public schools throughout the Commonwealth to implement anti-bullying policies. In the end, I believe the legislation required a JLARC study on the issue. I want to note that the definition of "bullying" needs to include the use of cell phones and other technology used inappropriately to harass individuals as well as the traditional behavior associated with bullying.

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 absolutely support the formation of Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in the schools. I have in the past and will continue to advocate for resources to help these clubs get established and to flourish.

10. Do you support the "It Gets Better Project"?

Yes. This is a wonderful project that seemed to organically grow following the moving public statement of an openly gay local elected official in Texas who shared his own story about being bullied as a kid. A broad array of people taped personal messages of hope for LGBT youth through YouTube. This is a perfect way to educate and support these youth. I think the "It Gets Better Project" is terrific.

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 support public funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment facilities. As a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, I was actively involved in monitoring the Northern Virginia allocation of Ryan White funds. Several times, I personally intervened on behalf of the Commission with D.C. officials and others to ensure that the dollars were allocated in a smooth and timely fashion.

I also voted to appropriate Arlington County funds to support programs at the former Whitman Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia, located in Arlington.

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. I fully support free access to HIV/AIDS testing at jail and prison facilities. I would absolutely support programs that encourage inmates to get tested for HIV/AIDS.

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 any way? If so, how and under what circumstances?

I have always supported a woman's right to choose an abortion and to access abortion services, birth control and contraception. I would not vote to limit access to abortion services, birth control and/or contraception in any way. I am a long time member of NOW and I frequently support NARAL events.

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?

Yes. I will commit to making support for full equality a major factor in my leadership selection decisions. The ongoing struggle for human rights and full equality for all people is a core value of mine.

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 believe it is important for LGBT individuals and allies to the LGBT community to share this information with the public. A single individual can help facilitate social change by talking with his or her family, friends and colleagues. This personal experience is very powerful. I have witnessed the effect of individuals “coming out” in my extended family and circle of friends. It is my view that, ultimately, there is nothing more effective in changing one person’s prejudice than for a friend, colleague or family member of that person to come out to them. Moreover, I would expect that for an LGBT person, there is no more empowering experience than being honest about who you are. Yes. I do believe it is important for public officials, in particular, to encourage and support LGBT individuals and allies in “coming out.”

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 spoken out many times for policies that would promote equality for all. I publicly opposed and worked to defeat the Marshall-Newman Amendment. I voted many times to include a proposal in Arlington’s State legislative package asking lawmakers to expand the Hate Crimes statute to include sexual orientation. I appeared before the House Local Governments Committee in the General Assembly to defend Arlington’s right to provide partner benefits.

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 consider my colleague, Jay Fisette, to be a friend and trusted advisor. We collaborate on many issues and have worked together to promote the values of equality, tolerance and inclusiveness in the Arlington community. The topics of immigration and the role of local government in this area have received a lot of attention lately. I am proud to say

that I voted on two County Board Resolutions that call on the Arlington community to be welcoming and inclusive and another that spoke to the need for enhanced hate crimes protections after the tragic murder of Matthew Shepard. I try to be a role model for these values in my everyday life.

18. Please use the space below to provide any additional information you would like us to know about your candidacy.

It is worth noting that 42% of the senate district is outside of Arlington and these voters would be considered "swing" voters. In fact, some of the voters in part of the District are very conservative. Nonetheless, I have been very public about my values and my stand on gay marriage and other human rights policies. These kinds of issues define me as a candidate and define my vision for Virginia. I believe the vast majority of voters in the 31st agree with my positions and expect their representative to vote accordingly. I will not disappoint them.