



# 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](mailto: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: Rob Krupicka

Address: 409 E Alexandria Ave, Alexandria VA 22301

Phone: 571.228.8314

Email: [rob@krupicka.com](mailto:rob@krupicka.com)

Campaign Website: [www.krupicka.com](http://www.krupicka.com)

Campaign Manager: Carter Batey

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: 202.351.9300 / [carter@krupicka.com](mailto:carter@krupicka.com)

### Race and Election Information

Office Sought: State Senate

Indicate whether office is partisan or non-partisan: Partisan (Democrat)

City, County or District of office:

Select One:  Challenger  Incumbent  Open Seat

Select One:  Caucus  Primary  General

Election Date(s): August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

### Biographical Information

1. Previous elected offices held:

Member, Alexandria City Council

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

*This race is deeply personal to me. I grew up in a single-parent home and was born to a teenage mother who often struggled to support my sisters and me. From my earliest years, my mother and my father (who I saw during summers), impressed upon me how important hard work and education are to a person's future. No matter where people start in life, they should have the opportunity to fulfill their potential. I've made this principle the foundation of all of my public service, whether it's my involvement in public education or my work to build a more sustainable, healthier, open community.*

*Fairness and equality are at the foundation of my belief in individual potential. I know that our community is stronger and more successful because of our emphasis on fairness and equality. I believe it is the responsibility of individuals who are committed to a cause to stand up for it. This passion for progressive ideals is what spurred me to run for office. It has been my honor to serve on the Alexandria City Council since 2003, where I am proud of our human rights ordinance, human rights policies and our work to ensure our community is welcoming. I believe in our community health and HIV prevention efforts. And I'm proud of the fact that our city legislative agenda is always strongly in favor of LGBT rights.*

*My faith plays a strong role in my personal philosophy. I attend Hope United Church of Christ which is an open and affirming church. We celebrate the diversity of our church and our community and actively participate in LGBT awareness and outreach activities throughout the region from the Pride parade to people of faith for equality.*

*Part of the reason I am running for this seat is to end the politics of blame that too often drive the debate in Richmond. Blame is an incredibly effective tool, which is what makes it so dangerous. It makes people ignore logic and instead allows them to justify their shortsighted prejudice. It is the politics of blame that has used discrimination based on sexual orientation as a political wedge. It is why we continue to fight against the tides of anti-immigrant legislation year in and year out. It is why Virginia's Attorney General has so many loyal followers on the far right. If elected, I will continue to stand up to the politics of blame. We can only move forward as a Commonwealth if we bring everyone to the table.*

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

Yes. I was the first straight member of the VA Partisans. I joined in the early 90s.

4. Have you been endorsed by any LGBT organizations now or in the past? If so, please list years and races.

The VA Partisans have endorsed me in my three races for the city council.

### **Activities**

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

I carried the flag for Mark Green in the NYC Pride Parade when he ran for Mayor in 2001. I have attended the DC Pride Parade with my church. I have sponsored movie nights in Alexandria focused on LGBT issues and have used my personal network, email list and web sites to promote LGBT equality issues. I routinely attend events hosted by Alexandria's LGBT community association. I also helped to endow the college scholarship given out by

the Alexandria Scholarship Fund on behalf of Alexandria's LGBT community association. This is the only scholarship that I have helped in this way.

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?

I have been and continue to support a number of LGBT organizations from NOVAM, to Whitman Walker, Equality Virginia and other organizations.

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

Yes. As an individual, with my church and as a member of the City Council.

**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'm opposed to discrimination on any grounds—including sexual orientation and gender identity.*

*My campaign, along with my office at City Hall hire based on qualifications and do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.*

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 any and all efforts aimed at dismantling discriminatory policies at any level of government. Alexandria's legislative package routinely includes support for legislation related to LGBT rights and equality. Since I have not been in the VA Legislature, I have not had an opportunity to introduce legislation, but plan to make equality legislation regarding workplace discrimination, marriage and bullying a regular component of my work.*

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).

*I fully support the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell and I have been very vocal in that regard. I was disappointed but not surprised when Delegate Marshall introduced his bill to allow the*

*Virginia National Guard to continue to discriminate based on sexual orientation. It is that type of backward, hateful thought (and action) against which I will fight in the Senate.*

- **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 have, do, and will support efforts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I was happy to support the campaign in 2005 to keep Virginia's constitution free of discriminatory amendments like the one that it now has. I was disappointed that the effort to prevent its passage did not succeed, but that didn't, and doesn't mean that I will stop fighting for marriage equality.*

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).

*As I stated above, I have, do, and would like to play an active role in the repeal of the Marshall-Newman Amendment. I want to be more than a participant in this fight. Part of the reason that I am running to be a member of the Senate is so that I can take a leadership role in fighting back against this sort of bigotry. In truth, I didn't think the campaign in opposition to Marshall-Newman was as well run as it could have been. I'd like to play an active part in developing the strategy to repeal the amendment. It is going to take a diverse and complex coalition of interest groups. I believe I can help that effort.*

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. As already stated, I don't serve in the legislature now, so don't have the ability to introduce legislation. But Alexandria routinely includes LGBT rights in its legislative package. I will always stand up in support of LGBT rights.

- **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 recently hosted a community movie screening about LGBT issues called StraightLaced and I have hosted other movies in the past to encourage this conversation and public education.

*Straightlaced—How Gender’s Got Us All Tied Up is a feature length documentary that takes a powerful and intimate look at how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are shaping the lives of American teens today. The film proudly showcases the diverse and unscripted voices of more than 50 youth from a wide range of high schools, who speak with breathtaking honesty, insight, and humor about gender roles and the struggle to be who they really are. Their courageous stories model the possibility of dialogue and action, offering both teens and adults a way out of anxiety, fear, and violence and toward a more inclusive, empowering society.*

*[For more information and to watch the trailer here](#)*

*Sponsored by:*

*Alexandria LGBTQ Victim Services Task Force*

*Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP)*

*Alexandria Gay and Lesbian Community Association (AGLCA)*

*DC Metro Chapter of PFLAG – Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays*

*TC Williams Gay-Straight Alliance*

*Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)*

*Councilman Rob Krupicka*

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?

I would support (and would sponsor) legislation aimed at lowering incidents of harassment and violence. I think our focus needs to be on prevention rather than punishment; putting kids in jail for bullying is only going to drive teachers and administrators away from reporting incidents of bullying. And we already have laws on the books that can allow for jail time. We have to look at how technology is increasing the ease of bullying and need to work with parents, students and administrators to become more aware and active in preventing this. I strongly support peer-based efforts to inform school culture and prevent bullying. I also support active monitoring and reporting of bullying and of ensuring our public schools have trained teachers and counselors who can help students and their families. Law enforcement professionals should also receive regular training on the issues of bullying and on how they can help prevent it.

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?

I support GSAs in schools. I have participated in them in my past as a supporter and will continue to advocate for them.

10. Do you support the “It Gets Better Project”?

*I do. Moreover, I think it is one of the best uses of social media to solve a real social problem in recent memory. The “It Gets Better Project” is an archetype for effective use of technology. Social movements, including the LGBT movement stand to benefit greatly from such an impressive step forward.*

- **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?

*I support public funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment facilities. We provide some funding through the city budget in Alexandria and I believe there is more we can do. I strongly supported the student clinic on the campus of TC Williams High School so that students would have access to testing and health information. I have been a supporter of Alexandria's HIV Prevention Task Force and will continue to support all efforts to fight this disease and to increase awareness about it.*

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, and yes. It has been estimated that between 17 and 25 percent of people infected with HIV/AIDS have passed through the correctional system.*

- **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 am 100% pro-choice. As I have said throughout this campaign, I will always stand up for a woman's right to chose, and I will fight to ensure that women have access to reproductive care and contraception.*

- **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. Full equality is something that should be at the core of the Democratic Party. I would not support someone for leadership unless equality was part of his or her platform. My party needs to start building for its future. LGBT issues need to be a baseline part of that future.*

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"?

*Coming out is a deeply personal decision for members of the LGBT community, and they should be allowed to choose the time and manner in which they do it. It is important for both out individuals and straight allies to make it clear where they stand—publicly and openly. I will always celebrate and support LGBT individuals that are willing to come out. I celebrate*

*it at my church, in my private life and will as a legislator. My faith informs much of my views about equality and fairness and I believe framing LGBT issues through a lense of faith and fairness is important for the movement.*

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 done all of the above and will continue to. As I've said, this is something that has been a part of my core values long before I served in elective office and always will be.*

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 attend an LGBT friendly and supporting church. I have numerous friends in the LGBT community. I talk at community events. I march. I host parties. I promote issues in my newsletter to thousands of people. I regularly support the Human Rights campaign. More than anything, I have been pleased during this campaign of the strong support I've received from LGBT supporters who know I'll stand up for them and that believe my leadership approach can yield results. This isn't about politics for me. I actively work to live the life and adhere to the values that I profess in my political life. There isn't a gray area between who I am and my political views on these issues.*

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

*As the first straight member of Virginia Partisans, I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize the important role that Adam Ebbin has played in these issues. I don't discount any of his work or his leadership and fully understand that the LGBT Dems PAC should have a strong interest in acknowledging Adam's work. I've considered Adam a friend for almost 20 years and my candidacy is not meant as a critique of his efforts. But I do believe we need new ideas in Richmond; on education, transportation, environment, vets and equality issues. I know we need to take different approaches to how we make progress as a Party and how we build up the next generation of leadership. I don't think our Party has had the legislative success we should have. I think we need to put more effort into state-wide party building. I think we need to think differently about our legislative strategy. Regardless of your decision for the PAC endorsement, you can count on me to be there for you. I have put these issues in my literature from day one and I am not shy about talking about them, even when some voters raise concerns to me. I use those interactions as opportunities to broaden the conversation. As I said in early Partisan's endorsement surveys for my City Council work, these are not issues where I will moderate my views because I don't believe you can moderate fairness.*

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please contact [president@vapartisans.org](mailto:president@vapartisans.org) with any questions.**