



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 by July 8th for primary races and by August 8th for general races. 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: Christopher Wade

Address: 9330 Hobart Ct.

Phone: 571-238-3468

Email: wade4supervisor@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.wadeforsupervisor.com

Campaign Manager: Charles deGrazia

Campaign Manager Phone/Email: cadegrazia@gmail.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: Braddock District Supervisor

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):

Biographical Information

1. Previous elected offices held:
None

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

Attached separately

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 LGBT Democrats of Virginia.

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

I have never run for office before and have not been endorsed.

Activities

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

I have expressed support for LGBT organizations.

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 expressed support for LGBT related organizations.

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

I have not volunteered for or attended LGBT related events.

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?

If elected, I would establish a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity for my employees. My campaign staff is small and we do not have policies in place. However, as someone who has been in a position to hire numerous people, I have always looked for the most qualified person regardless 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 would absolutely support all efforts to ban discrimination bias on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and housing.

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 support the repeal of DADT. I oppose any efforts to implement exclusionary policies based on sexual orientation for the Virginia National Guard. Citizens should be able to serve openly in our military or National Guard regardless of sexual orientation. I have never been elected to public office and therefore have not had the opportunity to introduce or co-sponsor legislation.

➤ **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 will support efforts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I believe that the law is not only unconstitutional but discriminatory. I have never been elected to public office and therefore have not had the opportunity to introduce or co-sponsor legislation.

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 will support efforts to repeal the Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Virginia Constitution. This Amendment threatens the rights of lesbian and gay individuals and same-sex couples. I have never been elected to public office and therefore have not had the opportunity to introduce or co-sponsor legislation.

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 absolutely believe that same-sex couples should enjoy the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as their straight counterparts. Our Declaration of Independence states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." As a society, we need to ensure that all people have the same rights, benefits and responsibilities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I have never been elected to public office and therefore have not had the opportunity to introduce or co-sponsor legislation.

➤ **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).

I strongly 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.

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 consider harassment of LGBT students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity to be a form of bullying. I strongly support legislation that aims to lower the incidents of, and directs schools to put an end to, bullying in public schools and facilities. Positive self-esteem is critical to the development of children and young adults. Bullying tears away at the self-esteem of students and severely impacts their ability to reach their full potential as students and as individuals. There is no place for such harassment in our schools.

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 the formation of Gay/Straight Alliance clubs (GSAs) in schools. Not only do these clubs help educate all students about diversity but they also provide support and camaraderie for LGBT students.

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

Yes. Any project which helps inspire hope among young people facing harassment should be supported. The success of this project is illustrated by the over 10,000 user-created videos and over 35 million views.

➤ **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 funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment facilities. Because of the advancements in treatment, I am concerned that HIV/AIDS prevention and testing does not receive the necessary attention that is required. I will support efforts to increase funding for and access to these facilities throughout all regions of Virginia.

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?

I support free access to HIV/AIDS testing at jail and prison facilities. Such programs help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. I would also 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 anyway? If so, how and under what circumstances?

I absolutely support a woman's right to choose abortion and to access abortion, birth control and contraception. I think it is imperative to keep abortion as a legal, safe and accessible option.

➤ **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?

I do not think this question applies to the County Supervisors. However, if presented with the opportunity, I would commit to providing support for full equality and factor in my leadership selection decisions.

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”?

I think it is very important for both LGBT individuals and allies to share their status as an LGBT individual or an ally to the LGBT community with the public. At the end of the day, this is an individual chose but we need to have an environment, where people feel safe. People should not be afraid to hide their status. I think elected officials should encourage and support LGBT individuals and allies in “coming out.” By standing together, we can illustrate that we are all created equal and should have equal rights regardless of race, creed, color, gender or sexual orientation.

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.)?

Over the past ten years, I have gotten married, started a business, had three children and attended business school while simultaneously working. I have not had much time to engage in advocacy for LGBT issues or any other issues for that matter. I have also not had the opportunity to speak out at my place of business, testify before a government body or march for equal rights. The company that I co-owned was very small and we did not have written policies for employees. However, I have always looked for the most qualified individual when making hiring decisions.

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 always included LGBT and other minority individuals in my personal and professional life. I do not have to work to try to include them. My wife and I are raising our kids to see people for who they are as individuals and not judge people by their race, creed, color,

gender or sexual orientation. One of my wife's long-time best friends is a lesbian. She is as integral a part of our life as any other of our other friends. Here are some other examples:

Our first two children were cared for during the day by a woman named Grace Stephenson. She is an African-American woman who lives close to us. She watched our kids because she cares about people, and we needed the help. Grace has not watched our kids in several years, but we consider her a part of our family and our kids call her "Grandma Grace." I have included a video of her talking about me and my family.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC5W9BEyJtE&feature=player_embedded

Through my involvement in Democratic politics, I have gotten to know Judy Moats, Christopher Schaffer and Christopher's partner Jason Anderson. They are all members of the LGBT community. They have been great supporters of my campaign. I am proud to call them friends. Here is a video that Jason made on my behalf.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1dnKrY_nnA&feature=related

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

I am a first time candidate and recognize that your organization is more familiar with my opponent. However, I strongly encourage you to read about my background and look at the video testimonials on my [website](#), including the video by Sharon Bulova on my homepage. I think you will see a consistent theme. You will hear people talk about my character as an individual. You will also see that I am someone who brings people together to solve problems. I have created jobs in our community, helped companies operate more efficiently and am very active in our education system as a parent, advocate and adjunct professor at GMU. I possess the depth and breadth of experience required to be an effective and engaged Supervisor. I will fight for the issues I believe in, including full equality. I would be honored to receive your endorsement.

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

Christopher Wade, M.B.A, PMP

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Fairfax, VA 22032
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cjwade@gmail.com

CANDIDATE FOR BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

- Committed to being an accessible and involved Supervisor
- Business leader with track record for solving problems
- Financial experience and knowledge to serve the County and Braddock in addressing difficult economic issues
- Active as a parent and citizen in helping to improve Fairfax County Public Schools
- Dedicated to maintaining the Quality of Life in Fairfax County
- Collaborator who will attract a broad range of voters

PERSONAL OVERVIEW

- Fairfax County and Braddock resident for almost 10 years
- Family- Stacy (wife), Caleb (7), Julia (5) and Liam (3)
- Raised in southeastern Massachusetts
- Father was a juvenile probation officer; Mother was a special education teacher and administrator

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- Adjunct Professor- George Mason University
- Member, Braddock District Democratic Committee
- Fairfax County Public Schools- Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC)
- Fairfax Chamber of Commerce- Board Member(2002-present)
- Fairfax Chamber of Commerce- Finance Committee (2007-present)
- Fairfax Chamber of Commerce - Valor Scholarship Committee (2004-2006)
- BRYC Youth Soccer
- Good Shepherd- Young Families Ministry and Sunday School Teacher

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Manager- Financial Management and Performance Improvement Business Unit
Morgan Franklin Corporation, McLean, VA..... 11/2010 – present

Program Manager, Research.gov Managed Hosting and Services
Deputy Program Manager and Software Task Lead, Battle Command and Mission Execution
SAIC, McLean, VA 10/2005 – 11/2010

Co-founder, Chief Operating Officer
NetStrategies, Woodbridge, VA 04/2002 – 09/2005

Director of Product Management
NTT Communications, Springfield, VA..... 03/2000 – 02/2002

Vice-President of Sales
digitalNATION/ Verio, Springfield, VA..... 01/1997 – 03/2000

EDUCATION

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
Master in Business Administration (Summa Cum Laude), May /2009

University of Notre Dame
Bachelor of Arts, Government and International Studies, May 1994