

Georgia Stonewall Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire

Instructions: Please return questionnaire PDF via email to juliana.illari@gmail.com, or USPS mail to Juliana Illari 40055 Penhurst Drive Marietta GA 30062 At the Board's discretion, interviews may be scheduled with candidates prior to making endorsement and contribution decisions.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE NOON on FRIDAY MARCH 28th!

Note: Your answers are "on the record," will be circulated to all members of the Board, may be shared outside the organization and may be published to the Georgia Stonewall Democrats Facebook page, or released to the media.

Candidate and Campaign Information

Name: Thomas Wight
Address: PO Box649, Tucker, GA 30085
Phone: (404)680-9034
Email: Thomas@thomasWight.com
Campaign Website: ThomasWight.com
Campaign Manager: Porter David Deal
Campaign Manager Phone/Email: (404)422-6583; Porterdeal@aol.com

Race and Election Information

Office Sought: Representative, 7th US Congressional District

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): 11/04/2014

Biographical Information

Previous elected offices held: Lilburn City Council

Candidate bio (include issues relevant to LGBT Community):

I graduated from Wake Forest University School of law. I spent seven years as a Judge Advocate in the United States Army. I argued, unsuccessfully, to extend Bowers v. Hardwick to active-duty military personnel. I spent eight years as an Assistant District Attorney. I resigned my seat on the Lilburn City Council to run for Congress.

I spend a lot of time hiking. I know the importance of preserving our environment, especially our precious wilderness.

Are you a member of the Georgia Stonewall Democrats? No

If so, when did you join?

Have you been endorsed by any LGBT organizations now or in the past? No

If so, please list years and races.

Activities

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

No

Have you attended events for, joined, or otherwise expressed support for the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party, other LGBT and LGBT-related causes or organizations?

No

Have you ever volunteered for or attended LGBT Pride, or other LGBT or LGBT-related events?

No

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

If elected, would you establish a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation **and** gender identity for your employees?

Yes.

Do you have such a policy in place for your campaign?

No. I don't have written policies in place for my campaign. I would welcome a draft form policy, from the Stone Wall Democrats.

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?

Yes.

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 legislation in the past (if not, please explain why).

The ENDA would result in an extra-constitutional extension of Federal power. The Federal government has no role to play in matters of sexual relations, or gender identification.

I have not held an elected office which provided an opportunity to introduce legislation.

Marriage and Partnership

Do you believe that same-sex couples should enjoy the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as their straight counterparts?

I do not think the Federal government has any role in encouraging, or providing benefits to, some types of living arrangements and excluding other types.

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 Georgia government?
See answer to previous question.

I am not running for state legislative office. I have no position on whether state government has the authority to recognize, encourage, or provide benefits, to some types of living arrangements and exclude others.

Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored legislation in the past (if not, please explain why).

I have not held an elected office which provided an opportunity to introduce legislation.

Education and Schools

Have you in the past, do you now, and, if elected, will you support 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?

I do not think the constitution grants the Federal government any authority to set curriculum for state or local primary and secondary education.

Please note whether you have introduced and/or co-sponsored legislation in the past (if not, please explain why).

I have not held an elected office which provided an opportunity to introduce legislation.

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?

Yes.

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?

Federal legislation that deals specifically with primary and secondary education, including activities that occur on or at state and local education facilities, is not supported by the Constitution. More general Federal legislation that attempts to define and prohibit bullying is neither necessary nor wise. This issue is best reserved to the states.

Do you support the formation of Gay/Straight Alliance clubs (GSAs) in schools?

No. As a candidate for Federal office, it is inappropriate for me to express an opinion or advocate on an issue outside the purview of the authority of the office that I am seeking.

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?

No. As a candidate for Federal office, it is inappropriate for me to express an opinion or advocate on an issue outside the purview of the authority of the office that I am seeking.

HIV/AIDS Prevention, Testing and Treatment

Do you support public funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment facilities?

Yes.

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 Georgia?

Yes.

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

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?

Yes.

Would you vote to limit access to abortion, birth control and/or contraception in anyway?

Yes.

If so, how and under what circumstances?

I think it would violate the 1st Amendment to require faith based organizations to provide services when that service violates a tenet of the organization's faith.

Other

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.

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?

No. A person's sexual activity is a private matter. I can think of few, if any, times when sexual practices or preferences are relevant in any public debate.

Do you believe it is important for public officials, in particular, to encourage and support LGBT individuals **and** allies in "coming out"?

No.

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 not.

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 do not consider an individual's sexual practices or preferences to be relevant to any public purpose. I do not consider a person's ethnicity, gender, race, or religion to be relevant when deciding whom to support or with whom to do business.

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

I am focused on prosperity, responsibility, and opportunity.

To support my campaign:

Vote for Thomas Wight.

Visit my website: www.ThomasWight.com;

Like me on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThomasWightForCongress>;

Follow me on Twitter: https://twitter.com/wight_thomas;

Contribute to my campaign

Using PayPal; or

By Sending a check to Friends of Thomas Wight, PO Box 649, Tucker, GA 30085

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please contact Juliana Illari at juliana.illari@gmail.com or 770-314-4776 with any questions.