Vote 92

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This article will focus on some of the major candidates and local races that are of significance to our community. The comments do not necessarily reflect a candidate's view on other issues that might be of interest to an individual voter; i.e. being supportive of antidiscrimination legislation does not automatically mean they are also pro-choice, concerned with the environment, have a strong position on disability rights, health care, etc. Also, the identification of a candidate as being an advocate or friend of the lesbian gay and bisexual community is not a statement or reflection of their sexual orientation.

Please note this article was being written prior to the September 8th primary. If you would like additional information please contact Keith Goslant at (802) 454-8552.

Party Platforms:
Democratic Party: Both the state and national platforms include strong civil rights language: "We don't have an American to waste...(we) will continue to lead the fight to ensure that no Americans suffer discrimination or deprivation of rights on the basis of race, gender, language, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics irrelevant to ability...(we will) provide civil rights protection for gay men and lesbians and an end to defense Department discrimination." A key speaker at the Democratic Convention was Robert Hattoy, a gay man living with AIDS.

Republican Party: The state platform was not available at the time this article was being written. However, the platform drafted two years ago by the state Republican Party included language identifying the family and christian values as the foundation of our society. The National Republican Convention this year included keynote speakers who specifically targeted homosexuality as being perverse and not an acceptable lifestyle alternative. The convention also included language opposing domestic partnership, gay marriages and antidiscrimination legislation. "No Queers" buttons were seen on the floor of the convention.

Liberty Union: Previous surveys of Liberty Union candidates have shown strong support for antidiscrimination legislation and protecting the rights of all citizens.

It should be noted that while a party platform may not indicate strong support for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, individual candidates opinions may vary. If you are unsure of a candidates' position, please ask them.

Governor:

Howard Dean (Democrat) advocated and signed antidiscrimination legislation (S-131) into law. He spoke out against the terrorist tactics used towards supporters of the bill. His office had been looking into language for an executive order prior to passage of the bill and supported a move by state employees to include sexual orientation in state employment contracts.

John McClaughry (Republican) has opposed antidiscrimination legislation as being unnecessary and special interest related. As a senator he moved to have sexual orientation removed as a protected class from the Hate Crimes bill. He responded to a letter from the state chapter of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Veterans by stating that through our advocacy and visibility we created our own discrimination and supplied the motivation for hate crimes.

Richard Gottleib (Liberty Union) on previous surveys has indicated support for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

Lieutenant Governor:

David Wolk (Democrat) was the lead sponsor of the antidiscrimination bill, He was a strong supporter and reporter of the Hate Crimes bill. His opposition is using his support of the bills to try and discredit him as a candidate. He included passage of the antidiscrimination bill as an accomplishment in his announcement and campaign literature.

Barbara Snelling (Republican) made no public comment supporting the antidiscrimination legislation while it was being debated, saying such comment would be "inappropriate." Following the passage and signing, she did comment that it (passage of the bill) was the right thing to do.

Secretary of State:

Don Hooper (Democrat) has been a strong supporter of antidiscrimination legislation since it was originally introduced in 1987.

Ruth Stokes (Republican) initially opposed antidiscrimination legislation. Supported the bill this year only after the House Judiciary Committee accepted her amendment stating that the bill does not extend employee benefits to same sex couples.