

Candidate name: Erin Jones

Position sought (and number if appropriate): Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Please select one: Incumbent Challenger Open Seat

Campaign address: P.O. Box 23125
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My signature below indicates that the answers to the attached questionnaire accurately reflect my views and that I understand my answers may be publicly disclosed by SEAMEC.

Signature:  Date: June 1, 2016

The candidate must personally sign and date this front page. If you email the questionnaire, please include a scan of the front page or mail or fax the signed second page to us.

ISSUES: Please answer each question "Yes" or "No". YOU MAY QUALIFY OR EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWERS BY INSERTING OR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

1. Should individual government employees be permitted to opt out of performing specific duties of their office if they assert it infringes on their religious beliefs?
 YES NO
2. Did you support Referendum 74 (legalizing civil marriage for lesbian or gay couples in Washington State) in 2012, either as a voter or as an elected official?
 YES NO
3. Do you support the Washington State Human Rights Commission's ruling affirming an individual's rights to use facilities consistent with their gender identity?
 YES NO
4. Will you publicly oppose initiatives to repeal non-discrimination protections based on gender identity or expression?
 YES NO
5. Will you support legislation to facilitate legal recognition of non-biological Second-Parent and Stepparent Adoption for same sex couples? (Such laws apply when couples in a same-sex relationship have a child through surrogacy or donor insemination and grant parenting rights to the both the biological and non-biological parent.)
 YES NO

6. PrEP is short for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. It is a new HIV prevention method in which people who do not have HIV take a daily pill to reduce their risk of becoming infected. Do you support the state making this treatment available to people considered at high risk who cannot afford the high cost?
 YES NO

7. Should religiously affiliated healthcare providers and facilities open to the public or accepting public funds be allowed to deny coverage or refuse services they believe conflict with their religious doctrines?
 YES NO

8. Should the State of Washington allow public schools to opt out of teaching comprehensive scientifically accurate age-appropriate sex education?
 YES NO

9. Do you support "full healthcare equality" in both public and private coverage that includes medically necessary gender-identity related healthcare (i.e. counseling, medication and hormone treatment, as well as surgery)?
 YES NO

10. Do you support the current rights of individuals to make reproductive decisions, including abortion and contraception?
 YES NO

11. Do you support public funding of reproductive health, contraceptive, and abortion services for those in financial need?
 YES NO

12. Do you support passage of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)?
 YES NO

13. Do you support allowing openly Transgendered citizens to serve in our nation's military?
 YES NO

14. Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision striking down state laws that prohibited same sex marriage?
 YES NO

15. Numerous local jurisdictions have enacted a mandatory employer paid sick leave ordinances. Do you favor similar legislation at your level of government?
 YES NO

16. Washington State collects demographic statistics based on race, gender and age. Should optional and confidential demographic data regarding sexual orientation and gender identity also be collected?
 YES NO
-I support this only if it is completely optional. If we are able to gather data, it could aid us in better supporting the LBGTQ community.

17. Should businesses be allowed to refuse service to LBGTQ individuals based on personal religious beliefs?
 YES NO

18. Should religiously-owned institutions, such as hospitals, schools, or charities be able to legally terminate an employee of someone for being LBGTQ, when their job is not in a religious capacity?
 YES NO

19. Do you support legislation that would prohibit Conversion Therapy (reparative therapy) on minors?
 YES NO

However, as a mother and 25 year educator, I would want to ensure that appropriate education and counseling has occurred before a decision is made.

20. Do you support the US government providing funds to foreign governments that criminalize or actively discriminate against LGBT persons.

YES NO

GENERAL QUESTIONS: This section focuses on your overall campaign and your level of participation and advocacy on LGBTQ issues. SEAMEC gives significant consideration to your record of past activities in support of LGBTQ issues. So please be thorough and specific.

1. What are the three highest priorities or most important issues of your candidacy?

The most important issues of my candidacy are as follows;

- Continued advocacy for full funding of basic education. In the effort for this goal, I was the educator who testified in the McCleary case.
- Working towards a more reasonable and efficient testing mechanism. Our current state assessment, the SBA, is time –consuming, and does not provide educators and students with the information needed for proper assessment. With the new version of NCLB, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we now have new opportunities to rethink our assessment practices, and find new methods that are more reasonable and more informative.
- To promote equity for all students, while creating pathways for students and families to navigate public school system. I believe every student should have a successful academic experience in our public school systems that enable them to obtain post-graduation learning opportunities to reach their goals. In order for this to happen, families must also be given support systems to ensure their students are successful. One means to this reality is promoting equity by doing five things differently:
 - 1) Data-reviewing multiple data points (not just test scores), sharing data, and using it to inform decisions.
 - 2) Investing in Educators-addressing the teacher shortage by recruiting, hiring, and training educators that can instruct our most vulnerable students.
 - 3) Family and community engagement- recognizing that families and the community are equal partners in the education of students.
 - 4) Student support-ensure that systems are training their educators to provide academic, socio-emotional, physical and cultural supports.
 - 5) Transitions-create a system of support that assists school districts in providing smooth transitions from one level to the next (pre-school to elementary, elementary to middle school, middle school to high school, high school to college/career) as well as one classroom to another.

2. How much money have you raised for your campaign? What is your final campaign budget?

As of May 31st, I have raised nearly 67,000 dollars. My final campaign budget is 300,000 dollars.

3. How would you advance LGBTQ issues at your level of government?

As the mother of two (unofficially) adopted gay children, I would like to use the bully pulpit to talk about the realities of the impacts of bullying on LGBTQ students. These conversations/training should be part of our anti-bullying curriculum at the state level. I believe it is critical for every student, no matter his/her orientation and gender to feel safe and welcomed in school.

4. What organizations and/or individuals do you consult to inform you on LGBTQ issues?

My two adoptive children, as well as the LGBT commission in Seattle, and various friends in the education field that are apart of the LBGTQ community, who advise me on all things related to education as it pertains to this specific demographic.

5. Have you ever contacted any elected officials regarding any legislation or issue specifically affecting the LGBT community? Please specify who, what issue(s) time period(s) and outcome(s).

No I do not believe I ever have to date.

6. Have you ever raised LGBTQ issues to any non-LGBTQ audiences? Please specify the issue(s), what group(s), time period(s) and outcome(s).

I am a public speaker by profession, and I share the story of my adopted children who have become apart of my story. They were both abandoned by their families after "coming out" but have since become my family. As a former pastor's wife, I have had numerous conversations with church members about the importance of acceptance and not judgement of others. In almost every case, I believe I have helped raise awareness and encouraged understanding. I have done training on student engagement and safety for hundreds of educators. Sharing my concerns about LGBTQ students and the issues they face is typically a part of that message. These conversations have led to additional training and opportunities to work with educators to develop policy and practice that meets the needs of LGBTQ students.

7. Have you ever advocated for pro-LGBTQ policies in your workplace, faith institution, community organizations or elsewhere? Please specify what policies, time period(s), and outcome(s).

Yes. I served on the equity team for the Federal Way school district. Our goal was to develop an equity policy that established expectations and practices to best serve students with regard to issues related to sexual orientation, gender orientation, race, and religion. Because of this work, we established a special work group in the district before I left to address needs specific to the LGBTQ community. As a youth pastor, my husband and I have advocated to allow LGBTQ persons to participate in youth groups. Finally, as a member of the board of Girl Scouts of Western Washington, we established a ground-breaking policy allowing transgender girls to participate in Girl Scouts programs.

8. Why should the LGBTQ community vote for you?

From childhood I have always been involved in some way with the LGBTQ community. I grew up at the American School of The Hague, where 30% of our teachers were members of the LGBTQ community who had to leave the U.S. in order to "come out" safely and keep their jobs. As an adult, from my practices of acceptance on a personal level to my students, to my adoptive children, and to members of the community at large—I have ensured that all I come in contact with know that I accept them and advocate for their fair treatment. In my profession I have advocated for policies and curriculum that best suits students that are LGBTQ, and have been in environments that have enabled me to speak and inform others on how to best serve these students. I believe the LGBTQ community should vote for me because their best interest is not a newly acquired priority in my personal and professional life. I have a genuine interest and commitment to ensuring the community is treated fairly as a whole, and students are given safe places and spaces to learn.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please rate yourself in the following areas using this scale: A – Excellent, B – Good, C – Fair, D – Poor, F - None

_A___ Knowledge of LGBTQ issues

_A___ Sentiment/sympathy towards LGBTQ issues

_A___ History/record on LGBTQ issues

Do you publicly identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender? *

[] YES [] NO

*Your answer will not influence your evaluation, rating or possible endorsement of your candidacy. Answering "Yes" indicates your willingness to be identified as a member of the LGBTQ community on SEAMEC election rating documents. If you are not publicly open, please answer "No." If SEAMEC identifies publicly LGBTQ candidates, we state that sexual orientation and/or gender identity are not indications of qualification for office.