

**Empire State Pride Agenda  
2010 Governor's Candidate Questionnaire**

1. Do you support state legislation to allow same-sex couples to legally marry?

**Yes and I would make this a program bill.**

2. Would you veto legislation that allowed same-sex couples to marry?

**No**

3. Can you envision any circumstance where you would support legislation such as the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" or a similar federal or state Constitutional amendment that defines marriage as only between one man and one woman or otherwise bars same-sex couples from having equal access to marriage?

**No**

4. While current law might prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in areas like housing, public accommodations, credit, education and employment, there is no specific statute outlawing such discrimination in New York. Do you support legislation like the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression?

**Yes and I would make this a program bill.**

5. Do you support transgender New Yorkers having equal health care insurance coverage for things like hormone treatments, appropriate routine medical care and screening, and gender-confirming surgery?

**Support. I would introduce legislation or regulations to accomplish this goal.**

6. New York State currently provides funding for community based organizations providing health and human services to the LGBT community in areas involving youth, seniors, substance abuse, and mental health. The Pride Agenda administers a Network of over fifty of these CBO's that advocate for and administer these funds. Do you support specific state funding for community-based programming related to LGBT health and human service programs beyond HIV / AIDS and would you continue to include this funding in your executive budget?

**Support. I would include this funding in my Executive budget.**

7. Do you support an increase in funding for the treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS and the implementation of age-appropriate, medically accurate HIV/AIDS and sex education curricula in schools?

**Support. I would include this in my Executive budget.**

8. Do you support initiatives to strengthen the enforcement of human rights laws, such as ensuring sufficient funding for the State Division of Human Rights to fulfill its duty to investigate complaints in a fair and timely manner, and earmarking funds to educate employers and the public at large on state human rights laws like the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA)?

**Support. I would include this in my Executive budget.**

9. Do you believe that state relief programs such as workers compensation and accidental death benefits for police and firefighters should be fully inclusive of same-sex partners/spouses?

**Support. I would introduce legislation or regulations to accomplish this goal**

10. While spouses do not have to pay taxes on health insurance provided through their husband or wife's employer, domestic partners are taxed on health benefits that they acquire through their partner. Do you support making domestic partner health benefits exempt from state taxation just as spousal health benefits are?

**Support. I would introduce legislation or regulations to accomplish this goal.**

11. Do you believe that the State of New York should only do business with companies that extend to domestic partners of their employees the same benefits (such as health insurance and bereavement leave) that are extended to spouses?

**Support. I would introduce legislation, regulations or an Executive Order to accomplish this goal.**

12. Do you support legislation that would allow localities to do business only with companies that extend to domestic partners of their employees the same benefits that are extended to spouses?

**Support. I would make this a program bill.**

13. Do you believe that youth in juvenile justice and other facilities operated by the Office of Children and Family Services should be protected from discrimination and bias harassment based on sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression?

**Support. I would issue regulations or an Executive Order to accomplish this goal.**

14. Many small employers who want to offer health coverage for the domestic partners of their employees cannot find an insurance company that will sell them such coverage, with insurance companies refusing to sell domestic partner coverage to employers with fewer than 50 employees. Do you feel insurance companies should be required to sell domestic partner insurance policies on the same basis as spousal insurance coverage?

**Support. I would introduce legislation or regulations to accomplish this goal.**

15. Do you support legislation that prohibits employers who provide funeral leave to employees

from denying leave on the same basis to same-sex committed partners?

**Support. I would make this a program bill.**

16. Do you support legislation that would allow employees to use sick time to care for a sick family member, including domestic partners?

**Support. I would make this a program bill.**

17. The Pride Agenda supports all people having the right to sexual privacy and control of their own bodies, including reproductive freedom. Do you support full access to reproductive health and safe abortions?

**Support**

Are there restrictions you place on this right (parental consent requirements, a ban on so-called "partial birth abortions," etc.)?

**No**

18. Would you work to appoint commissioners, advisory board members, etc. who reflect the diversity of New York State, including the LGBT community?

**Yes**

19. To date, there has never been an openly LGBT judge on New York's Court of Appeals. Would you push for the appointment of qualified LGBT judges to New York's courts?

**Yes**

20. The Pride Agenda believes that the fight for LGBT equality and justice is part of a broader vision of a more fair and just New York State. As such, we support actions that further social, racial and economic justice in areas including but not limited to combating violence against women, the ability of workers to organize, affordable housing for the poor and shelter for the homeless, and increasing access to physical and mental healthcare. What are your priorities around state measures that further these and other social, racial and economic justice goals?

**A Green New Deal, including:**

- **Progressive Tax Reform to close the deficit and fully fund public services and social programs.**
- **Single Payer Health Care providing comprehensive, quality services for all residents.**
- **Full Employment - Jobs for all at living wages, with government as the employer of last resort in public works and services.**
- **Fully Funded Public Schools**
- **Tuition-Free CUNY and SUNY**
- **Mass Transit expansion with new dedicated funding, including congestion pricing.**
- **Affordable Housing through a State Rental Subsidy Program for households**

**below 150% of poverty line, home rule on rent control, ending vacancy decontrol, increased state investment in public housing, and other measures.**

- **Farmworkers Bill of Rights**
- **Repeal the Taylor Law**
- **A State Bank to invest in a Sustainable Green Economic Recovery based on Renewable Energy, Mass Transit, Clean Manufacturing, Organic Agriculture, and Walkable Communities.**

21. What methods will you use to stay apprised of the concerns of the LGBT community (e.g., appoint an LGBT liaison, hold an annual town meeting with the LGBT community, create an LGBT advisory committee, etc.)?

**I would use all three of those methods and more.**

22. Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Empire State Pride Agenda?

**I want the votes of the people who support LGBT rights and social justice. I would be proud to tell people of my endorsement by the Pride Agenda.**

23. Why should members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community support your candidacy?

**Unlike Andrew Cuomo, who was publicly silent and did little to support the marriage equality bill this year, and the Republican candidates, who are opposed to and just plain ignorant about LGBT civil rights, I support LGBT civil rights without any wavering or hesitation. A vote for Howie Hawkins on the Green line is a clear statement for LGBT rights. A vote for Cuomo as a defensive lesser-evil vote against the Republican we fear most is a vote that does not make a clear statement to Cuomo, a vote Cuomo will take for granted.**