



*End discrimination based on
sexual orientation and
gender identity*

SAMPLE FEDERAL OFFICE QUESTIONNAIRE

June 1, 2020

Equality Kansas is the leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) political and advocacy organization in the state. Our membership is as diverse as the general population, and is actively engaged in formulating and defending pro-equality, non-discriminatory public policy at the state and local level.

In addition to our public policy activities, our political action committee, the Kansas Equality PAC, endorses and supports candidates who make a commitment to speak out and vote in favor of LGBT equality, and who will defend against the ongoing attempts to legislate LGBT Kansans into second-class status.

Please find the enclosed Equality Kansas 2020 Federal Questionnaire. The topics are among those that have, in the past, been issues before the Kansas legislature and are likely to come before it in the future. Each question may be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” response. There is also room for additional comments, which we welcome and encourage. Many areas of public policy are complex, and nuanced answers from you will help us get to know you as a candidate and officeholder.

THE DEADLINE TO RETURN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE IS JULY 6, 2020

If you are an incumbent officeholder, we will likely know some of your views from your voting record and public statements. *We encourage you to spend a few minutes on our questionnaire regardless.* There may be issues with which you are unfamiliar, or on which you'd like to offer an opinion. **We value your input, and would like to hear from you.**

Equality Kansas does not publish or share the contents of your questionnaire. This document is used internally for our leadership and government affairs staff to get to know you, and to evaluate your positions for potential endorsement and support of your candidacy.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 316-683-1706, or email witt@eqks.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas Witt
Executive Director

PS: This questionnaire may be scanned and returned via email to witt@eqks.org. You may also request that a fillable PDF be emailed to you. **The deadline for your response is July 6, 2020.** Questionnaires received after that date will not be considered!

1. Federal law protects Americans from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on race, color, religion or creed, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, genetic information, and citizenship. Approximately half the states, and hundreds of municipalities, have enacted policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes.

a. Do you support amending Federal law to include sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes No

Comments:

b. Would you agree to sponsor legislation adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Federal non-discrimination laws?

Yes No

Comments:

2. Over the past decade, many states have seen a movement to allow individuals to exempt themselves from non-discrimination laws based on their religious objection. Many of these state legislative efforts have targeted LGBTQ Americans with bills that would allow denial of recognition of legal marriages, access to health care, equal participation in civic life, and taxpayer-funded foster and adoption services. Similar bills have been introduced in Congress, and the current administration has made regulatory and policy changes allowing religious objection to discrimination protections.

a. Do you support Federal legislation that would block states and municipalities from permitting religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws?

Yes No

Comments:

b. Do you oppose efforts by the Federal government to roll back discrimination protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes No

Comments:

3. Under President Obama, the US armed forces were working to implement policies allowing transgender Americans to serve openly. President Trump has made moves to reverse the Obama policies and ban transgender members of the military.

a. Do you support allowing transgender Americans to serve openly in the US armed forces?

Yes No

Comments:

- b. Would you agree to sponsor legislation guaranteeing the right of qualified transgender Americans to serve in the US armed forces?

Yes No

Comments:

4. Federal funds are used to support education from preschool to advanced post-secondary institutions. Federal regulations already require public schools to enact non-discrimination policies based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age. Federal agencies are also deeply involved in promulgating bullying prevention policies in local schools.

- a. Do you support Federal policies that include protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools?

Yes No

Comments:

- b. Do you support comprehensive bullying prevention programs that include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes?

Yes No

Comments:

5. The Federal government provides taxpayer funds to states to administer foster and adoption services for children who have become wards of the state. Some states have passed, or are attempting to pass, legislation that would deny participation in taxpayer-funded foster and adoption services by LGBTQ Americans.

- a. Do you support the right of LGBTQ families to adopt and foster children free from discrimination by state governments and their child services contractors?

Yes No

Comments:

6. Human rights abuses against LGBTQ individuals are both horrific and common in many nations around the world. LGBTQ people are often murdered by their governments, or in extra-judicial killings condoned by governments. Same-sex relationships are not given legal recognition, and in many places criminalized.

- a. Do you support requiring the Department of State and other Federal agencies to include sexual orientation and gender identity in all human rights diplomacy and programs?

Yes No

Comments:

- b. Do you support granting asylum to LGBTQ refugees who seek safety in the United States?

Yes No

Comments:

Additional Comments:

SAMPLE