



2018 Candidate Questionnaire

As a service to the LGBTQ community in Washtenaw County, the Jim Toy Community Center is requesting that candidates seeking public office complete the following questionnaire to fully explain their positions on several critical LGBTQ issues.

Responses to this scorecard may be made available to the membership of the Jim Toy Community Center and the public at large. The Jim Toy Community Center is a non-profit organization and does not endorse or campaign for/against candidates.

Please complete & return this questionnaire to president@jimtoycenter.org by July 13 at 8pm.

Candidate Name: **Jeff Hayner**

Office Sought (if applicable, include district/ward): **City Council, First Ward**

Email: jeffhayner@firstforjeff.org

Phone: **734-255-6085**

Campaign Website: firstforjeff.org, [facebook/firstforjeff](https://www.facebook.com/firstforjeff)

1. What other endorsements have you sought and/or received?

I have received the endorsement of current city council member **Sumi Kaliasapathy**. I have received endorsement of the **Huron Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club** and the **Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club**. I have applied for the Planned Parenthood of Michigan endorsement but too late for the primary. I have received endorsements from individuals and business owners in the LGBTQ community, which may be publicly shared closer to election day.

2. Do you believe in the mission of the Jim Toy Community Center to cultivate an inclusive community where people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are visible and live together in equality, respect and happiness? How have you helped or will you help achieve this objective?

Certainly. I have helped in a few ways directly and indirectly. I have attended events, made donations, shared and spoken favorably about your programs to others, and volunteered with other groups on OutFest activities over the years. I wish that someone from the center could have attended my campaign kickoff event which I scheduled to coincide with the start of Pride month. I shared what I have been told were very stirring remarks about my own relationship to PRIDE – and about my experiences and involvement with the gay community, and my first exposures to radical politics in the form of ACT UP which I participated in and supported. I was also a Resident Advisor at U of M around that time so that really helped broaden my understanding of LGBTQ issues. I remember working to get U of M Health Services and University Housing to distribute literature and condoms for example, and at local hangouts like the Rubaiyat and the Flame. **I will always advocate for human rights and personal rights – there can be no other way.**

3. It is still legal in Michigan to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Do you support efforts to amend the Elliott–Larsen Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ individuals? Why or why not?

That's a state issue and I thought that the Civil Right Commission recently expanded it to specifically include sexual orientation and gender. Then I believe that interpretation was rolled back by the Senate. So this issue is very much in flux, my concerns are: When we start enumerating protected classes, there is the possibility to discriminate by omission. I would prefer Elliot–Larsen be made more general and therefore more encompassing, as intended – a total human rights act. I am a firm believer that laws should be clearly written and simple, and default to maximum freedoms. **I support efforts to amend and broaden the act to make sure it can be interpreted as providing universal human rights.**

4. Do you favor or oppose the ability of a private individual or business to deny products or services to customers based on sincerely held religious beliefs? Why or why not?

As a small business owner, I don't understand the logic behind turning away customers. From the customers perspective, if there is another place to get a cake, for example, go there. Why would you want someone baking your cake if you knew they were intolerant of your lifestyle? Why give them your business? Conversely, someone with sincerely held beliefs should expect the occasional contrary interaction and have a few referrals to other service providers handy. Business transactions operate inside a market, the market is supposed to solve these issues.

I don't favor denying anyone service for any reason, I cannot speak for other business owners, but I don't know any others who do either.

5. Please explain your position on conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth. Would you support or oppose local/state laws banning conversion therapy?

I'm generally not a fan of policies that place restrictions on business outside of environmental or public safety issues, or if they are operating outside the law or in a way that has demonstrated negative effects on the quality of life of residents. I recently heard a pretty detailed report about this practice, and I would think that the state could step in to enforce licensure requirements at the very least. **While I generally oppose local laws limiting anyone's personal relationship with a business, we cannot allow quackery to masquerade as mental health treatment.**

6. Recognizing that many states have laws which forbid or discourage educators from employing curricula inclusive of LGBTQ sexual education, health and history, please explain your position on LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum public schools.

I have kids in the Ann Arbor Schools where this is prevalent, **so as long as the materials are age-appropriate I view it as any other health or history or social studies issue.** Our kids should be learning as much as possible along with critical reasoning skills – so that they are better prepared for the broad experiences of life. I might add I saw some stuff up in a classroom once that was woefully short on information of some aspects of LGTBQ history – so **we need to make sure the**

content is accurate and the presentation compelling and memorable, as we might with any other textbook.

7. The Williams Institute suggests that approximately 36,000 LGBTQ people may be enrolled in the DACA program, and as many as 267,000 undocumented people identify as LGBTQ. Please explain your position on so-called sanctuary cities, and on ICE activity within Washtenaw County. Additionally, if elected, what will you do in your specific position to protect immigrants in Washtenaw County?

I think that we are taking the wrong approach to ICE in our community by ordering the AAPD to turn a blind eye to ICE actions. I would prefer that the police instead be trained on actions they can take to limit negative interactions between resident/immigrants and ICE. In my view by ordering them out of the area, we are abandoning our residents. The AAPD is supposed to be there to serve residents, not ICE. I'd much rather our local PD was on site to say monitor the situation. We would be better informed, and in a position to intervene. Again, this might take special training.

Sanctuary cities are a hot-button topic – city council crafted legislation designed to both remain welcoming and ensure the continued flow of Federal dollars to us, which I felt was decent but also sort of toothless. We also have the Washtenaw County ID program which we help fund and I would continue to. **If getting an ID gives displaced folks access to tools for bettering their situation – like libraries or transit or banking, while reducing the demand for social support services, I fully support this program.**

8. Many LGBTQ people, especially people of color and/or those who identify as transgender, have experienced challenging interactions with police. What work will you do, if elected, to address the challenges in police-community interactions? What specific reforms or measures would you support as it relates to the police and LGBTQ communities, as well as police and communities of color?

I have been sitting in on the planning and meetings of the police task force. I will continue to do so, and if elected I will apply for the same assignments that Sumi Kaliasapathy holds including HRC and Police Oversight. **I recognize that various communities/groups face different challenges in their interactions with the police, and so there can be different solutions to problems, yet I insist that the root of the problems are the same, mostly abuse of authority and the societal issues that create and support an environment for such abuse.** So to me it's a human rights issue generally, **we all deserve respectful treatment.**

If elected I have promised to work to keep the police oversight task force viable by setting up recurring funding. It also needs to retain autonomy, have investigative authority, practice total transparency in all matters that come before it (providing protection and anonymity those who choose of course) and of course determining who sits on the board needs to come from the people. I share residents concerns that mayoral appointment is not the best route – I have studied what other cities do, in some cases they are elected positions, appointed by other boards, etc. The point is we cannot have a body stacked with political players and police and city staff.

i also have had some experience with community policing and restorative justice practices and so I would like to get more of that going generally in the city. I don't

think we need more sworn officers, but I do think we need to make sure that the LEO we have are dispatched and assigned in ways that do more to integrate them into the communities they serve. **We also need to make sure our LEO training is kept current and includes instruction on any unique aspects of the diverse community that is Ann Arbor.**

9. Please describe your position on gender-inclusive restrooms in public schools and other public facilities.

I see them all the time in Ann Arbor schools, no problem here. **I view access to physical spaces like bathrooms in same way I might view ADA requirements.** They benefit the user and the building. Public spaces have greatly benefitted from ADA; I have worked within the ADA framework in my career many times. A good rule of thumb on considering public facilities “those who need it, will use it – but only if it’s available.” So make it available. **Everyone deserves the right to feel safe in their workplace, their school, and public spaces.**

10. Please explain what you will do, if elected, to promote transgender-inclusive healthcare policies in Washtenaw County and in Michigan more broadly

Start with a review of our current city/county policies to determine if they are lacking protection would be a place to start. I would perform an exhaustive review working with a knowledgeable community partner. Policy could be formed in response to that, again with community partners, in the same way as I have been discussing working with Sierra Club to advance policy items on environmental issues.

11. Please explain your position on public funding/partnerships for HIV/AIDS services, including but not limited to, needle-exchange programs and access to PrEP?

All needed as part of comprehensive health care effort. As a lifelong-proponent of safe sex I view it as just another tool to control public health outcomes in challenged populations. Might I add a seemingly very effective tool due to ease of use vs. or including with more traditional safe sex practices like condoms, etc.

Needle-exchange would be great – I have publicly called for it in the past and would certainly support this at city or county level.

12. Please explain your position of support/opposition for the right to access reproductive care.

Right to Choose is essential, if that’s what you are asking. Recent concerns that this right might be sent back to individual states are legitimate, and we need to be prepared to work at the state level to ensure access to reproductive care remains available. I support holistic health care regimens – to exclude reproductive care is as baffling to me as vision or dental being regularly excluded from standard health care insurance plans – it’s as if one’s eyes and teeth are somehow not part of one’s body? **Comprehensive, universal health care would greatly improve overall conditions,** and likely free up scarce resources to be used on other pressing matters. We all need to keep working towards better health care generally.