

Response From Brett Borden

Statement by Candidate

Thanks for reaching out! I'd hoped we wouldn't be under such restrictions by this time that I could have participated in some local Pride events this campaign season and had reached out to Moscow and Benton-Franklin PFLAG earlier in hopes of coordinating elsewhere as possible on issues of importance to gender and sexual minorities. I am a gay man myself and appreciate what organizations like PFLAG do for our communities and in representing people like me in the political sphere.

Answers

1. Do you support the full and equal treatment of same-sex couples in regards to issues like Healthcare, housing discrimination, and other related issues? **Yes. Washington has led the way the past 15 years or so on issues like these and I would oppose any attempt to scale back such protections.**
2. Transgender women, especially transgender women of color, are being killed at a horrific rate. Do you support protections being advocated for the Transgender community? **I do find the apparent uptick in these bias crimes cause for concern. My chief campaign issue is bringing about broad scope criminal justice reforms in order to make our justice system more fair, more effective, and more just. I believe enacting changes like ending pursuit of victimless crimes will clarify the purpose of our law enforcement as focusing on investigating violent crimes like these when they happen.**
3. Comprehensive Sexual Health Education is a very important thing for the LGBTQ+ community to help decrease sexual assault and suicide. Do you support SB 5395 and the "Approve R90" campaign? **I need to read the bill carefully first. While I believe parents should remain in the primary position of making decisions for their families, one of the areas this can fall short in serving the needs of young people is the area of sexual education, particularly in the case of students who are gender or sexual minorities. I support having this information available through sex-ed in middle and high schools in case such needs are not being met otherwise.**
4. The Federal House of Representatives passed the Equality Act, however, it has not been taken up in the Senate. Do you support the Equality Act? **While I am seeking a state office and not a federal one, I would be inclined towards supporting it. As**

Libertarians fundamentally believe in free association, I am sympathetic to business owners being free to run their business as they see fit. However, I find the idea of choosing to enter the public marketplace in an industry where their personal beliefs would interfere with serving the public at-large quite problematic. Peaceful people deserve an expectation in a free society that they can live openly without being tossed out of an establishment for as arbitrary a reason as who they are. Fundamentally, in situations like these of seemingly conflicting freedoms, I'd rather come down on the side of which is going to benefit more people and result in a more open society.

5. Some conversations are being had about making Eastern Washington a Christian State that would remove state-level protections for the LGBTQ+ community. Do you support or reject the idea of stripping protections from LGBTQ+ people? **I'm against rolling back equality laws. I'm against using State power to favor the beliefs of any particular religion in public policy. I'm against top-down big government controls in general, particularly when theocratic in nature. People should be free to live their life as they see fit as long as it does not harm others, period. Lastly, I oppose the idea of Eastern Washington separatism. I understand that it is frustrating to feel like we live under the thumb of Seattle, but exchanging left-wing authoritarianism for right-wing authoritarianism is not the solution. The result would be even worse for people living in either state who are outside the dominant political force, sowing even deeper division through constant political subjugation. We are far better off mutually benefiting from what both sides of the state bring to our economy, and having at least some balance whereby leaders who have broad enough appeal can feasibly get elected no matter their politics.**