

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS of Western New York

PO Box 857, Buffalo, NY 14205

Website: www.SDWNy.org

OFFICERS

April 2016

Bryan Ball
President

Kitty Lambert-
Rudd
Vice President
Political Affairs

Nola Trotter
Vice President
Community Affairs

Ronald Groth
Treasurer

Cory Promowicz
Secretary

Dear New York State Assembly Candidate,

Stonewall Democrats of Western New York is the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Democratic voice in western New York. We are the largest LGBTQ political organization in WNY, working to advance the civil rights of the LGBTQ community in our community and government and to elect Democrats who are supportive of the civil rights movement and other progressive issues important to our community. Since the 1994, our membership has included community activists and citizens, straight allies and representatives from city, county, state and federal government.

Our endorsement process for the 2016 election season has begun. While recent years have made historic victories for civil rights in NYS government—with the passage of the Marriage Equality Act, the Dignity for All Students Act and Governor Cuomo's historic executive action on transgender rights and youth protection—there is still much unfinished business our state needs to attend to in order to ensure all LGBTQ New Yorkers are treated equally under the law. Among these crucial issues most important to our community is the Gender Non-Discrimination Act, which will amend state human rights law to include gender identity and expression as a protected class of citizen. This legislation will make law Gov. Cuomo's executive order which extending protections to transgender New Yorkers.

As a candidate for the NYS Legislature, we are interested in your candidacy, which would provide you with an opportunity to vote on these measures. We would like to provide you with the opportunity to engage in our process for endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of WNY. As you may know, an endorsement from Stonewall Democrats of WNY is important to many local LGBTQ community members, as well as our family, friends and supporters, as they decide whether to volunteer for particular campaigns and as they prepare to head for the polls to cast their vote.

An Affiliate of



National
Stonewall
Democrats

To be considered for endorsement, please complete and return the following questionnaire at your earliest convenience so that we may consider endorsement for your candidacy at our next meeting or a future meeting. The completed questionnaire should be either emailed to endorsements@sdwny.org, mailed to: Attention: Endorsement/GOTV Committee/ Stonewall Democrats of WNY/ PO Box 857 / Buffalo, NY 14205, or faxed to (716) 853-2448 (Attention: Bryan Ball, SDWNy.)

Please be aware that our endorsement process is attached. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We thank you and look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire for consideration for endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of WNY.

Sincerely,

Bryan Ball

Bryan Ball
President, Stonewall Democrats of Western New York
Bryan_Ball@sdwny.org

Stonewall Democrats of Western New York Endorsement Process

Candidates for elected office who wish to be considered for endorsement must complete our questionnaire and schedule an interview appointment with the membership at a general meeting.

Endorsement of a candidate requires a vote of sixty percent of the membership present at that meeting. If no candidate receives the required sixty percent vote for endorsement, subsequent ballots shall be taken deleting the candidate receiving the least number of votes or no votes on the previous ballot.

If, after the completion of balloting, no candidate has received the sixty percent of the vote required, candidates may be rated as “acceptable,” “unacceptable,” or “no position,” depending upon the candidate’s record and/or position statements. If sixty percent of those voting cannot agree on a rating, the candidate will be assigned the rating of “no consensus.”

If a candidate is endorsed, the remaining candidates will not be rated.

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2016 ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE – NYS LEGISLATURE – ASSEMBLY

Name: JASON A. PERDUE

Campaign Address: 34 BURTCH ST, JAMESTOWN, NY 14701

Email: jason_a_perdue@yahoo.com

Phone: 716-397-2452

Fax:N/A

Office Sought: NY ASSEMBLY, 150th DISTRICT

Party Affiliation: DEMOCRAT

Other Party Lines Sought: WORKING FAMILIES PARTY, WOMENS EQUALITY PARTY

Before you continue, please understand that:

- Stonewall Democrats of WNY may publicize your responses in press releases and voters' guides, on our web site, and via other channels of communication. Stonewall Democrats of WNY will also identify candidates who fail to respond to this questionnaire.
- Stonewall Democrats of WNY will hold you publicly accountable for actions inconsistent with your responses during your campaign and if elected during your term in office.
- Stonewall Democrats of WNY will not consider endorsement of any candidate if they support any state or national version of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) legislation, which was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Part 1:

Please submit your typewritten responses to the following questions on a separate sheet.

1) Why are you seeking this office?

After speaking with so many concerned individuals in our county, hearing their stories, the struggles they face while knowing my experience with the issues, its time Chautauqua county has a representative who not only understands the issues county residents face but has lived through them. Someone who is willing to stand up and fight for everyone! In the community, I have listened and will continue to listen. That's what we need from a representative. Someone who votes for the people! At the end of the day, this campaign is about making sure every resident is correctly represented and we have not had that representation out of our current Assemblyman. This is a campaign about giving residents a clear voice, with a representative who not only understands the struggles but has solutions. Someone who will fight for everyone, and I'm ready to be that person.

2) Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of WNY?

As an openly gay candidate, I have rallied and advocated for social justice and equal rights my entire life. I am a co-founder and two time elected President of the Jamestown Pride Society, an organization which promotes social inclusion for all individuals, promoting education and involvement within the LGBTQ community. For the past two years I have

directed the Jamestown Pride Conference, an event welcoming all individuals and furthering our mission of breaking down barriers that exist, eliminating discrimination and pursuing an all inclusive society. I am seeking the endorsement because the mission and values of the Stonewall Democrats of WNY are mine as well and together we can have representation in the 150th district to fight for social inclusion and equal rights for everyone

3) What three issues do you consider to be most important to the people served by the office you seek, and how have you/can you use said office to benefit these issues? For each issue:

1- We are blessed to live in a county flourishing with diversity, where we have the ability to experience many different walks of life, in an exciting cultural exchange right in our own community! Because of this, it is important to protect the rights of each and every individual. I favor the end of discrimination in all forms—including discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity or national origin, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or disability. In 2016, we should have come to a point where all individuals are treated equally in society, in school, in the workplace, in housing, in healthcare and under the law! Unfortunately, we have not. **GENDER WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION MUST END!** I strongly support legislation ensuring women are paid the same as their male counterparts as well as GENDA, to ensure the same rights to those with gender dysphoria. I will vote yes for equal pay for equal work and GENDA and advocate for their passage. For the past 3 years, I have organized conferences, seminars, lectures and several other events to bring awareness to these issues.

2- We have a clear crisis in our county. A priority of focus must be the drug epidemic, where I have partnered with several organizations to help relay a solution in the form of transitional housing! Addiction has taken far too many lives, broken families apart and diminished communities. This is a challenge that is now expanding throughout the entire county as we see troubling news daily on this topic, expanding all the way to my hometown of Brocton, NY. There is no better way to honor the lives of those we have lost, than by giving hope and an answer in the form of a solution, for those struggling now! For the past few years I have partnered with individuals such as Rick Huber from the Chautauqua County Mental Health Association to educate and advocate for transitional housing as well as addiction awareness.

3- Hard working County residents continue struggling to make ends meet which is why I strongly favor and would have voted for an increase in the minimum wage! I support the \$15 an hour minimum wage which will allow those working hard to be able to support their families and be more successful in their lives. Research shows that an increase will stimulate the economy by immediately putting more money in their pocket which they will spend locally, assisting local businesses through sales increases while reducing employee turnover with well paid workers. In turn, this will eliminate high turnover and the need for businesses to invest in training costs over and over again. In a county where individuals continue to struggle with income, working families cannot afford to have a representative fighting against their best interest who has failed to support, and voted against a \$15 minimum wage. There are myths out there stating that increasing the minimum wage will cause people to lose their jobs and force small businesses to close. This is simply not true. According to the United States Department of Labor: "In a letter to President Obama and congressional leaders urging a minimum wage increase, more than 600 economists, including 7 Nobel Prize winners wrote, "In recent years there have been important developments in the academic literature on the effect of increases in the minimum wage on employment, with the weight of evidence now showing that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market. Research suggests that a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth, and providing some help on the jobs front." On my opponents myth that businesses would close, the Department of Labor shows in "A July 2015 survey, that 3 out of 5 small business owners with employees support a gradual increase in the minimum wage to \$12. The survey reports that small business owners say an increase "would immediately put more money in the pocket of low-wage workers who will then spend the money on things like housing, food, and gas. This boost in demand for goods and services will help stimulate the economy and help create opportunities." Furthermore, "Academic research has shown that higher wages sharply reduce employee turnover which can reduce employment and training costs. I support eliminating "sub-minimum" wages for the more than 225,000 tipped workers in New York State, and support the creation of one fair minimum wage for all New York workers. I support efforts to ensure all low-wage workers not only earn \$15, but also have the protection of a union if they so choose. I pledge to use the visibility of my position to publicly support union organizing drives, contract campaigns and strikes and I also strongly support the "Buy American" legislation which would allow in-state industries to operate on a more competitive basis with international companies. I also support increasing Temporary Disability Insurance to two-thirds of a worker's weekly wage. I support policies such as the JOBS Act that would require businesses to guarantee to provide jobs, or be subject to clawback provisions that would require them to pay back tax incentives or to lose tax incentives not yet received. I support redirecting significant government resources now spent on tax breaks and failed economic development strategies to real solutions to fund public infrastructure projects, such as mass transit, that are proven to create good jobs. I was proud to stand with local officials and labor leaders on April 11, 2016 who signed a letter of support and spoke on behalf of New York state's proposed use of a project labor agreement for the Athenex project and other state-funded projects. I applaud Dunkirk Mayor Willie Rosas, Dunkirk City administration and local building trades union leaders Dave

Wilkinson of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 106, Gary Swain of the International Union Operating Engineers Local 17 and Steven Thorpe of Sheet Metal Workers Local 112. 800 jobs for the Athenex project is a huge win for Dunkirk and Chautauqua County! Now, we need to make sure the ENTIRE PROJECT ENSURES LOCAL JOBS, including the construction!

4) What three civil rights issues do you perceive to be the most important to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community? For each issue:

1- GENDA must pass to ensure equal opportunity, rights and social justice for all individuals regardless of gender identity and expression. I will vote yes and work to advocate the bill to the senate and continue educating on the need for this bill.

2- ANTI CONVERSION THERAPY must pass to protect children from this abusive form of "reparative" therapy. I will vote yes and work to advocate the bill to the senate and continue educating on the need for this bill.

5) Stonewall Democrats of WNY strongly believes that candidates have a responsibility to provide voters with truthful, fair and clean campaigns for public office and to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to a civil, issue-oriented debate with their fellow candidates. Would you sign a written pledge to conduct your campaign accordingly?

I do agree to the above. Furthermore, Our campaign finance system in this country is a mess. It is clear that residents in this county are upset with the difficulty of simply voting, while the extremely wealthy and big corporations have ruined how candidates can raise money. In New York State, we rank very low nationally for voter turnout and it is time we change this, so everyone has a voice! We have to have reform, to encourage participation in the election process. I support The Fair Elections Act legislation (A09281/S03502) that creates a public financing system for legislative and statewide elections throughout New York State. I support expanding the Fair Elections Act to include additional offices, such as District Attorneys and judges, throughout New York State. I support closing the LLC loophole to prevent wealthy individuals from contributing millions via shadowy and secretive limited liability corporations. I support the expansion of common-sense voting rights legislation that allows early voting, allows voters who move within NYS to vote at their new address and same-day registration.

6) If endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of WNY, will you list the endorsement on all applicable campaign literature (i.e., all literature listing any other endorsements)?

Yes

7) If endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of WNY, will you attend a LGBTQ community forum to introduce endorsed candidates?

Yes

8) What are you doing or what will you do to advocate for greater LGBTQ representation and empowerment at the ballot box and in elected office locally?

Our campaign is very diverse, including many individuals within the LGBTQ community whom we have educated on the importance of local government and politics. Our team has already been advocating online, at meetings and we have "Get out the Vote" rally's scheduled with speakers and fun activities to educate on the importance of voting and getting involved in the political process, specifically for the LGBTQ community. We are also attending many Pride Parades as a campaign, including the Buffalo Pride Parade.

9) Would you seek endorsement of or advertise on any homophobic/transphobic media, including but not limited to websites, blogs and newspapers?

No

10) Are you willing to meet with members of the LGBTQ advocacy community to discuss how you may be an even stronger advocate for LGBTQ civil rights?

I have had the opportunity to do so locally, and would be happy to do so every time the opportunity arises!

13) Do you support the Marriage Equality Act, which is now law in New York State? Do you support full, federal marriage equality which is now law in these United States?

Yes, Yes.

14) HIV/AIDS remains one of the major national crises of our times. As a candidate for the state legislature, do you support proper and continued funding of the NYS HIV Uninsured Care Programs (such as the AIDS Drug Assistance Program) which provide vitally needed treatment drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to low-income patients in New York? Additionally, how, as an elected representative, would you advocate for care and research on HIV/AIDS?

Yes, additionally, I support the New York Health Act, a comprehensive and universal single-payer system of access to health insurance for all New York State residents.

15) Do you support so-called religious freedom laws, such that passed in Indiana in early 2015 (prior to any LGBT-inclusive amendments), which allow for legal discrimination against the LGBTQ community?

No.

Part 2:

Please indicate your level of support or non-support for the state legislative priorities listed below based on the following rating system:

Sponsor: I will sponsor (or am a sponsor of) and will vote for this legislation

Cosponsor: I will cosponsor (or am a cosponsor of) and will vote for this legislation.

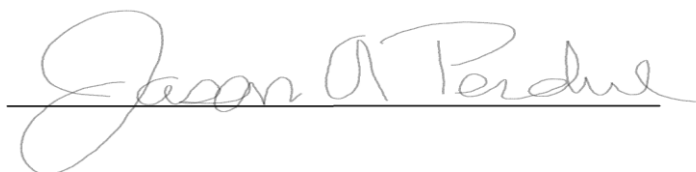
Vote For: I am not a sponsor or cosponsor of this legislation, but I will vote for this legislation

Oppose: I will actively oppose this legislation

Legislation	Sponsor	Cosponsor	Vote for	Oppose
(S00061A/ Squadron A 04558B/Gottfried)- “Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)”: Prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression; defines "gender identity or expression" as having or being perceived as having a gender identity, self- image, appearance, behavior or expression whether or not that gender identity, self -image, appearance, behavior or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth; further includes offenses regarding gender identity or expression within the list of offenses subject to treatment as hate crimes.	x			
(S00121/Holyman A04958/Glick): Legislation to outlaw anti-LGBT conversion therapy Designates as professional misconduct, engaging in sexual orientation change efforts by mental health care professionals upon patients	x			

under 18 years of age.				
(S00039A/Holyman): Would deny tax-exempt status to any organization that discriminates against any person, group, organization or other entity based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.	x			
(S02765/ Holyman A04319/Paulin)- The Child-Parent Security Act: Would clearly define a child’s parents, and amend NYS law to allow gestational carriers to be utilized in family planning possibilities here in NYS.	x			
(S01743/Carlucci A00797/ Jafee): Establishes the office of law enforcement professional standards within the division of criminal justice services; requires the commissioner of criminal justice services to appoint a director of such office; outlines the duties and functions of such office; establishes policies and procedures to prohibit traffic stops that result in the stopping, detention or search of any person when such action is solely motivated by considerations of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender or sexual orientation and the action would constitute a violation of the civil rights of the person.	x			

I attest that this questionnaire represents my opinion of the issues on this questionnaire:



Candidate’s Signature:

Date: 5/25/2016

Please complete the attached issues surveys, sign below and return questionnaire **by either by email to endorsements@sdwny.org, faxed to (716) 853-2448 (Attention: Bryan Ball, Stonewall Democrats of WNY) or mailed to:**

Attention: Endorsement/GOTV Committee
Stonewall Democrats of WNY
PO Box 857
Buffalo, NY 14205