

## John Flynn - Stonewall Democrats of WNY Questionnaire

1. Why are you seeking this office?

**Across Erie County and law enforcement, there is a crisis of confidence in the Erie County District Attorney's Office. Our community needs a fresh start and new leadership in the top law enforcement official's office.**

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

**For too long, many voices in our community have been shut out from being involved in the dialogue in the DA's office. The DA's office needs to be representative of and listen to the LGBT community. Your voice and message is important in this race. Justice means everyone is treated equally, regardless of orientation, gender or belief.**

3. What three issues do you consider to be most important to the people served by the office you seek? For each issue:
  - a. Provide an example of specific action you have previously taken – either as a public official or as a private citizen – to bring about positive change relative to this issue; and
  - b. Specify what additional action in regard to this issue you intend to propose if elected to the office you seek.

**There is a perception that politics and personal considerations have improperly played a role in prosecutorial decisions and actions by the DA's office for the past seven and a half years – since the current acting district attorney joined the DA's office as the top deputy to the former DA. That must stop. A new culture and new leadership is needed in the DA's office.**

**As a judge, naval officer, ethics lecturer at the US Naval Academy and as an adjunct faculty member at Buffalo State College, I have committed myself to being a leader and teaching leadership and strong ethical behavior to future generations of leaders. The DA's office needs new leadership so the public has confidence in their prosecutor.**

4. What three civil rights issues do you perceive to be the most important to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, our children and our families? For each issue:
  - a. Provide an example of specific action you have previously taken – either as a public official or as a private citizen – to bring about positive change relative to this issue; and
  - b. Specify what additional action in regard to this issue you intend to propose if elected to the office you seek.

**Equal rights is the single-biggest issue. We cannot allow discrimination against the LGBT community – or anyone. All people are equal and must be treated the same, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. Prosecutors must treat civil rights violations and discrimination and criminal actions against members of the LGBT community as serious matters.**

**As a former prosecutor, town judge and Acting Buffalo City Court Judge, I have a unique perspective on social justice in this community and the paramount importance of the application of equal justice under the law.**

**In addition, I have also committed to diversity in the DA's office so the office reflects all communities. I'd also like to examine using community advisory panels to strengthen relationships between the community and the DA's office.**

5. Stonewall Democrats of WNY strongly believes that candidates have a responsibility to provide voters with truthful, fair and clean elections 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?

**Yes.**

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 LGBT community forum to introduce endorsed candidates?

**Yes.**

8. What are you doing or what will you do to advocate for greater LGBT representation and empowerment at the ballot box and in elected office ~~through the Board of Education locally?~~

**Greater inclusion starts with treating everyone equally and facilitating and accepting our differences. I am committed to increasing diversity in the DA's office and in leadership positions across the community.**

9. Would you knowingly seek endorsement of, or advertise on any homophobic media?

**No.**