



# Pride's Human Rights and Education Committee Candidate's Questionnaire

Candidate Names:		Office Seeking:		Incumbent:			
Stephen J Murphy		Councilor at large		Yes			
Campaign Address:		Campaign Phone:		Campaign Email:		Campaign Website:	
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Contact Name:				Contact Phone:			
Lyn Burke				617-635-4376			

**Please write brief paragraph explaining your experience with LGBT Community:**

Long an advocate for Boston Pride's Human Rights and Education, I have enjoyed a strong relationship with Boston Pride's Human Rights and Education Committee. I was an early supporter of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. I reached out to my friends and colleagues in public office to lobby for Massachusetts to grant gay couples the same equal rights that are given to a man and a woman who are married. For those who choose to marry, there are financial, legal and social benefits that come with the institution of marriage and I believe it is wrong to deny those benefits because of a person's gender identity or expression.

My work on the proposed bill "An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights" is very important to me because, if passed, the law would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, education, credit lending, and public accommodations on the basis of a person's gender identity or expression. It would also add "gender identity or expression" to existing hate crimes statutes, which reflects the heightened level of violence experienced by transgender and gender non-conforming people. In countless dehumanizing ways, transgender people are denied opportunities and services for their basic needs. The Massachusetts Legislature has a chance this year to send a very different message: by passing the "Transgender Equal Rights Bill", we make it clear that we value our transgender residents. We will protect them against discrimination and violence, as is our duty to any resident in the Commonwealth. It is time for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to join 13 other jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., and dozens of municipalities that already protect their transgender residents in this country, and once again take its rightful place as a beacon of liberty, justice, and equality for all people.

As your colleague in public office, I will continue my advocacy in support of this legislation by continuing to work with my colleagues on the State and Federal levels. This legislation is vital to our communities because, when passed, will provide the foundation transgender people desperately need to stand on as they face challenges in many areas every day of their lives.