



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

Candidate Names: SEAN H RYAN		Office Seeking: BOSTON CITY COUNCIL, AT-LARGE	Incumbent: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Campaign Address: 264 Lamartine Street Boston, MA 02130	Campaign Phone: (617) 504-3133	Campaign Email: sean@ryanforboston.com	Campaign Website: www.ryanforboston.com
Contact Name:		Contact Phone:	

Please write brief paragraph explaining your experience with LGBT Community:

<p>Dear members of Boston Pride:</p> <p>I do not believe that individuals derive their human rights from membership in any particular group, but that each person receives his or her rights in a natural (or God-given) manner. I believe rights should not be restricted, and that our personal beliefs and habits should not be infringed upon – as long as we do not attempt to impose our beliefs on others. Our rights are inalienable. They are not bestowed upon us (and cannot be taken away from us) by the government or by its representatives; they include rights to life and liberty; and to the freedom of contract and association.</p> <p>I try to treat all people with the respect that I hope to receive from others. I am eager to learn more about the goals and concerns of all Bostonians – regardless of race, class, lifestyle, or creed. I believe that social change is best achieved through peaceful activism and with the power of persuasion, rather than through government mandates, however well-intentioned or expedient.</p> <p>I have campaigned door-to-door in several areas of the city that are currently home to large gay and lesbian populations: including the Moss Hill and Woodbourne neighborhoods of JP and Roslindale, and the Jones Hill/Savin Hill area of Dorchester. I have also noticed that in every neighborhood, gay people are an integrated and respected part of the community. In my own personal life – through decades of experience in classical music, opera and ballet performance – I have worked with numerous gay and lesbian people. I believe that my 3-S platform – emphasizing a return to neighborhood schools, with parental choice rather than lotteries determining student placement; a transparent and thrifty city budgeting process; and sensible solutions to problems with drugs and violence, rather than a perpetual "war" on the poor and on people of color – is one that honestly addresses quality of life issues affecting all Bostonians. I will be a representative who brings people together and builds coalitions – not by compromising on deeply-held principles, but by striving to build upon the goals that we all share with our neighbors, regardless of political affiliation or personal sensibility. Boston is and should be a city of thriving and cohesive neighborhoods. Communities are built from the bottom up, not the top down. We will build peaceful and prosperous neighborhoods by providing good schools close to home, accountable and cost-effective service provision, and streets that are free from organized crime and violence. I ask for your support, and for one of your four votes on November 8th.</p>
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