



Saturday, September 5, 2026

Union County Pride, Inc
Union County Pride, Inc - Political Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

On behalf of Union County Pride, Inc, I write respectfully to request that you respond to the questions submitted below regarding your agenda for the LGBTQ+ kids and their families living in Union County. Union County Pride Inc. is the foremost organization working to promote a thriving LGBTQ community in Union County, North Carolina.

The questions and answers, if received in time, will be published verbatim at www.unioncountypride.org on **September 15**. To meet our publication deadline, your responses must be received by no later than **September 5** If you do not respond, the publication will state *Did Not Respond*.

Please submit your responses through the online survey. As a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office. We hope that you will take this opportunity to communicate your views on how you as a political candidate will deal with policy and investments regarding LGBTQ+ kids and their families.

Sincerely,

Union County Pride, Inc

Candidate Name	Surluta Anthony
Email	surlutaanthony1307@gmail.com
Campaign Website	https://surluta4mayor.com/
Party Affiliation:	Democrat
Level of Government	City
Political Position	Running for Mayor of Monroe, Current Mayor Pro Tem

What would you do for LGBTQ+ people in your political area?
As Mayor, my responsibility would be to serve every person who calls Monroe home. LGBTQ+ residents are our neighbors, family members, coworkers, business owners, students, and community members. I would work to make sure city government is welcoming, respectful, and responsive to everyone. That means listening when concerns are raised, supporting fair treatment in city services and employment, and making sure people know they have a place and a voice in Monroe.

What would you do to for LGBTQ students?

Every student deserves to go to school feeling safe, respected, and able to focus on learning. While the Mayor does not oversee our public schools, I would use my position to support young people and work collaboratively with our schools and community organizations when issues affecting student safety and well-being arise. No child should be bullied, mistreated, or made to feel that they do not belong.

How would you vote on policies or laws regarding books in schools with LGBTQ+ characters?

I do not believe a book should be removed simply because it includes an LGBTQ+ character or family. Decisions about age-appropriate educational materials should be made thoughtfully, with educators, parents, and established review processes involved. I believe parents should be engaged in their children's education, but I also believe we should be careful about allowing individual objections to determine what every other family is permitted to access.

Would you vote for a policy or law similar to the Florida Don't Say Gay Bill or NC HB 755 at the school, state, or other government level?

No

Please explain your answer.

I believe we can respect parents, protect children, and maintain age-appropriate standards without creating policies that cause some students or families to feel singled out. These are sensitive issues, and I believe good government requires us to listen carefully and consider the real impact of the policies we adopt. My approach would be to support policies that keep students safe, respect families, and allow educators to do their jobs responsibly.

Would you vote for a city, state, or state anti-discrimination ordinance or law that covers the protected classes including sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTQ+) people?

Yes

Please explain your answer.

I believe people should be treated fairly. A person should be able to work, live, participate in their community, and access government services without facing discrimination because of who they are. I would support reasonable protections that uphold that principle while ensuring policies are clear, fair, and workable for the entire community.

How would you vote if Marriage or Relationship Equality becomes a state or local issue?

For

Please explain your answer.

I believe committed adults should have equal treatment under the law, including the legal protections and responsibilities that come with marriage. Families may look different from one household to another, but government should treat people fairly and consistently.

Please explain your current and past actions towards the LGBTQ+ community.

Throughout more than 30 years of serving Monroe, I have tried to lead by a simple principle: people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I have worked with people from many different backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and walks of life. My responsibility as an elected official has never been to serve only the people who look like me, believe like me, worship like me, or live like me. It has been to serve Monroe.

I also believe actions matter more than saying the right words on a questionnaire. I have worked to be accessible, to listen, and to treat people fairly. As Mayor, that same approach would extend to Monroe's LGBTQ+ community.

Please tell us anything else you would like the public to know about you and the LGBTQ+ community.

Monroe is a community with many different people, beliefs, backgrounds, and life experiences. We will not agree on everything, and I do not believe we have to agree on everything to treat one another well.

If I am elected Mayor, there will not be a test someone has to pass before I consider them worthy of being heard or represented. I am running to be Mayor of all of Monroe. I believe leadership means creating room at the table, listening even when conversations are difficult, and never forgetting the humanity of the person sitting across from you.

For me, inclusion is really that simple: you are part of Monroe, so you matter to Monroe.

I plan to attend the Candidate Meet-up.

Yes