



Wednesday, August 19, 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	Abigail Pepper
Email	abigailformonroe@gmail.com
Campaign Website	pepperformonroe.com
Party Affiliation:	Unaffiliated
Level of Government	City
Political Position	City Council

What would you do for LGBTQ+ people in your political area?

Monroe does not currently have a nondiscrimination ordinance (as far as I know), and passing one is something I think would help our LGBTQ community feel more welcomed and valued in our city, given past rhetoric coming from local public offices. I would also consider the impacts that proposed policies will have on our most vulnerable members in Monroe, including LGBTQ+ members, to ensure my votes are prioritizing the safety of every resident of Monroe. Beyond legislation, I would work to ensure that city services and communications are explicitly inclusive of LGBTQ+ residents, and that our community feels represented at the council table, not just tolerated. I would also use the platform of elected office to publicly and consistently affirm the dignity and belonging of LGBTQ+ Monroe residents, because visibility

from local leadership matters, especially in a community where that affirmation has been notably absent.

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

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

For

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

I have focused my advocacy on building inclusive community spaces and coalitions through my grassroots organizing work with Neighbors United: Vecinos Unidos Monroe and my broader community engagement with Indivisible Charlotte where LGBTQ+ residents are explicitly welcomed. I look forward to doing more, and to helping create the conditions in Monroe where LGBTQ+ community members feel safe enough to gather publicly and celebrate.

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

True community safety means every resident feels protected — not just from crime, but from housing instability, lack of health care access, and economic instability. On council, I would advocate for investments in mental health response infrastructure, community violence intervention programs, and robust social services that address root causes before crises escalate. I believe public safety and community trust are inseparable, and I would push for transparent, community-driven accountability structures that ensure our police department reflects the values of all Monroe residents. I am currently working on anti-Flock efforts during my campaign, as Flock surveillance contributes to many community members feeling unsafe due to the third-party company's history of mishandling private data and the mounting evidence of police officers misusing the system as well.

I plan to attend the Candidate Meet-up.

Yes