



Union County Pride, Inc

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

Leigh Coulter

Email

lcoulterforncouse@gmail.com

Campaign Website

LeighCoulterforNCHouse.com

Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Level of Government

State

Political Position

House of Representatives District 69

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

I think the most important thing to do for the LGBTQ+ community is to simply recognize that they exist and have the exact same rights to safety and privacy as any other American. Healthy relationships of every kind should be honored and respected and if necessary (still!) protective measures must be put in place.

What would you do to for LGBTQ students?

LGBTQ students need wrap around services and protections. Because young people are the very most vulnerable among us, they should be the most protected. Every attempt must be made at each school to create an open and welcoming environment for each and every student. This benefits everyone on campus. From the student body to the teaching staff and cafeteria and all support staff. Respect and care should not be rationed.

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

I trust the media specialists and the educator team leads with the responsibility to choose material for the school. Parents should also have an opportunity to suggest items. I will not tolerate bans on books or lessons or supplemental material because someone had their feelings hurt.

Parents always have the option to suggest alternative reading materials for their child. They are always welcome to craft lessons for their child that meet the objectives of the teacher as outlined in their lesson plans each and every day.

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.

Under no circumstances. This is state sanctioned violence and I will not stand for it.

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

Again, I am not offended by the existence of LGBTQ+ people nor am I concerned about their presence in books, movies, artwork, etc. I am a mature adult. I will not support any policy or law that seeks to other any of my friends, neighbors, co-workers or community members.

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.

Our culture is desperately trying to hold onto a version of our past that has actually never existed. Some, loud malicious people are threatened. This means that, unfortunately, anti-discrimination ordinances are still necessary to protect the lives and the dignity of my community members. I will support these kinds of ordinances until they are no longer necessary.

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

For

Please explain your answer.

All healthy relationships or the right to no relationship should be respected and valued. These are the foundations of civil society.

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

When my children were growing up, I made sure to provide them with opportunities to participate in comprehensive human sexuality education. I was determined that they would be vastly better prepared for adulthood than I was. To this end, I taught this curriculum at two levels at my church. This curriculum is called Our Whole Lives and provides instruction at 5 levels, kindergarten, 5th grade, middle school, high school and adulthood. All instruction is age appropriate. To be trained to teach this curriculum was an amazing opportunity that I will be forever grateful for. To learn about the rich diversity of gender, gender expression, sexuality and sexual expression was transformative for me. I have read, attended focus groups, discussion groups, seminars, parties and social gatherings all geared towards a better understanding of the complex nature of human beings. Such experiences build a base of knowledge and reduce fear of the unknown. I have learned to see all people for who they tell me they are and to be welcoming and to make space for a perspective that is not my own.

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

I can't think of anything.

I plan to attend the Friday, September 16 Candidate Meet-up and Art Show at East Frank's in Monroe.

Yes