



Thursday, September 5, 2024

Union County Pride, Inc

Union County Pride, Inc - 2024 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+ youth 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. 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+ individuals, LGBTQ+ run businesses and organizations, and LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

Sincerely,

Union County Pride, Inc

Candidate Name

Liz Baxter

Email

lizbaxter4ucsb@gmail.com

Campaign Website

VoteLizBaxter.com

Political Position you are running for:

UC Board of Education At-Large

Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Level of Government

School

Do you identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community?

No

Please explain your answer:

I consider myself an ally and advocate of the LGBTQ+ community.

Required Question

Do you support LGBTQ+ people? Yes

Please explain your answer:
Absolutely, I fully support the LGBTQ+ community and advocate for equal rights, committed to creating safe, affirming spaces for everyone.

I plan to attend the Candidate Meet-up at Waxhaw Taphouse in Waxhaw. Yes

You can stop here, but please answer all the questions focused on the level of government for your political position.

General Questions

Please share what recent LGBTQ+ focused events that you have attended and the LGBTQ+ organizations that you have supported, including Union County Pride.
I recently attended Charlotte Pride. Organizations I support are: Union County Pride, PFLAG, Equality NC, Time Out Youth, and the Human Rights Campaign.

What interactions have you had with the LGBTQ+ community in the past and currently?
I have friends and extended family members of the LGBTQ+ community. I consider my interactions with them no different than they would be with anyone else.

How would you support the LGBTQ+ community in your position if elected?
As a school board member, I would work to ensure that LGBTQ+ students, faculty, staff, and families are supported through inclusive policies.

How would you support LGBTQ+ students?
My vision is to cultivate inclusive school environments where our LGBTQ+ students can thrive and also receive a comprehensive education, while feeling safe and authentically themselves.

Education

Would you vote for a policy or law similar to the Florida Don't Say Gay Bill, NC HB 755, SB 49 at the school, state, or other government level? No

Please explain your answer.
SB49 poses a threat to the privacy of LGBTQ+ students and I believe we should focus on creating environments that support and respect the identities and privacy of our students.

Do you support or oppose bills that would limit classroom instruction that is inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community? Oppose

How would you vote on policies or laws regarding books in schools with LGBTQ+ characters?
I would strongly oppose any laws or policies with LGBTQ+ characters. It is extremely important for students to understand experiences of all people, and representation is also important for the students that identify as LGBTQ+.

Do you support or oppose students being able to decide for themselves when it is best and safest to come out to the parents, families, and caregivers?

Support

Discrimination

Other LGBTQ+ Issues

Non-LGBTQ Specific Issues

From your perspective, what role do Charter Schools, for-profit and non-profit, play in providing educational options to North Carolina students? Under what circumstances, if at all, do you support the expansion of charter schools?

Charter schools provide just that, another option. But they should be regulated to meet the same standards of transparency and accountability as public schools. I believe public funding should prioritize strengthening our public education system.

Do you support increasing pay for educators and school staff within public schools?

Absolutely, we need to be able to retain talented teachers and pay a livable, competitive salary.

What work will you put forward to elevate the ruling from the Leandro Case regarding school funding to promise a sound and basic education?

I would advocate for the full implementation of the Leandro ruling to ensure every child in NC has a right to a basic, comprehensive education.

What is your position on school vouchers and the use of public tax dollars to support private schools that may discriminate against LGBTQ+ students?

Public funds should be invested in our public schools and vouchers are helping to divert those critical resources away from public schools. This undermines the efforts to create an equitable education system for all students.