



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

Steve Martin

Email

steve@steve4ucps.com

Campaign Website

www.steve4ucps.com

Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Level of Government

County

Political Position

Union County Board of Education - District 6

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

LGBTQ+ people are part of the broad and diverse community in Union County; they are our friends, family, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, customers, and fellow citizens, and they, like all residents of Union County, deserve respect and equal opportunity.

On the Board of Education, I would uphold and enforce the Board's anti-discrimination and sexual harassment policies, which have both been re-affirmed in the last year and which already prohibit discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. I would affirm and welcome everyone in the UCPS family, including LGBTQ students, families, teachers, and staff.

What would you do to for LGBTQ students?

LGBTQ+ students, like all UCPS students, deserve an excellent school that welcomes and accepts them and provides a learning environment free from discrimination or harassment about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

On the Board of Education, I would uphold and enforce the Board's anti-discrimination and sexual harassment policies, which have both been re-affirmed in the last year and which already prohibit discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. I would affirm and welcome everyone in the UCPS family, including LGBTQ students, families, teachers, and staff.

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

Books in schools should reflect the world in which students live, and should provide students with an opportunity to learn about people, places, and cultures that are familiar and different from their own. I would not support the removal or books from our public schools simply because they include or reference LGBTQ characters.

I do support UCPS policy that allows parents to review any books being used as part of classroom assignments, and to request an alternate assignment for their child for any book to which they object. I also support the policy allowing parents to challenge the use of books or other supplemental materials in their children's school. But I oppose efforts to remove or not approve books for use in UCPS schools simply because they include LGBTQ characters.

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 oppose efforts to discriminate against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to have the government marginalize or denigrate the existence of LGBTQ people and their families, or to punish or criminalize acknowledgement that LGBTQ people and their families exist. Such efforts appear to be a primary driver behind the Florida law and the ways it is being implemented.

I believe curriculum should be age appropriate. For example, it's not appropriate in the early elementary grades to be discussing sexual activity of any kind. But acknowledging families, including families of students in a class with gay parents or LGBTQ siblings, is appropriate at a young age.

Public schools should never teach a student who identifies as LGBTQ, and/or who has a parent, sibling, or other family member who is LGBTQ, that there is anything wrong with them or their family, or that they or their family are "lesser" or unequal, or that they should feel ashamed. Public schools should welcome all students and their families.

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.

LGBTQ+ people are part of the broad and diverse community in Union County; they are our friends, family, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, customers, and fellow citizens, and they, like all residents of Union County, deserve respect and equal opportunity. Sexual orientation and gender identity should be protected against discrimination in the same way we prohibit discrimination on the basis other immutable characteristics (i.e., race, ethnicity, sex, age, nationality, religious belief).

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

For

Please explain your answer.

In a free society, adults should be able to marry the person they love and enjoy all the legal protections, rights, and benefits of married couples regardless of their sexual orientation. As a civil matter, marriage promotes stability and continuity in our society, and should be open to all adults. The government should not discriminate against its citizens with on the basis of their sexual orientation.

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

On a personal level, I accept people for who they are, with the sexual orientation and/or gender identity they express. I am a straight man - my sexual orientation was not anything I chose, it just is who I am and always have been. In my conversations with LGBTQ friends over my life from college to the present, to a person I have heard the same back from them. On that basis, I oppose discrimination against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In my life I have had, and still have, many friends, family, colleagues, and co-workers in the LGBTQ community. I treat them with the same love and respect that I have for anyone else. I support and affirm them and their families, and value their friendship.

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

Yes