

GUARDIAN

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Election Day is November 6 – see full candidate Q&A at www.hrcncf.org

HRCNCF Queries Candidates for Alachua County Commission, School Board, State House & Senate, and Congress

The Human Rights Council of North Central Florida (HRCNCF) received questionnaire responses from many candidates that will appear on the November 6 general election ballot. These included candidates for Alachua County Commission, School Board, Florida House and Senate, and Congress.

Selected questions with responses are printed below; to view full questionnaire responses go online to www.hrcncf.org.

HRCNCF issued endorsements for state and local ballot measures: **YES** on State Constitutional Amendment 4 (Voting Restoration), **YES** on Alachua County Question 1 (½ mill ad valorem taxes for Children's Trust), **YES** on Alachua County Question 2 (½ cent sales surtax to Improve School Facilities), **NO** on Gainesville Charter Amendment 1 (GRU Authority), and **YES** on Gainesville Charter Amendment 2 (City Commission Elections and Terms of Office).

Election Day is Nov. 6, with early voting running daily from 9 AM to 6 PM on Oct. 22 to Nov. 3 at six voting sites: the Supervisor of Elections office at 515 N. Main St., the UF Reitz Union, Millhopper and Tower Road libraries, Legacy Park in Alachua, and Melrose United Methodist Church.

In the County Commission District 2 race, Democratic nominee Marihelen Wheeler faces Libertarian Party candidate Gregory Caudill, Scott Costello, who is running without party affiliation, and write-in candidate Ward Scott.

“Wheeler provided excellent responses to the questionnaire, and as with her past candidacies for office, she continues to maintain a solid track record of supporting LGBT rights,” said HRCNCF Board member Linda Bassham. She noted that Scott Costello provided good responses to the questionnaire, but he lacked Wheeler's history of supporting LGBT issues.

In the Alachua County School Board District 3 race, incumbent board member Gunnar Paulson faces off against April Tisher. “Gunnar Paulson continues to be supportive of LGBT issues on the School Board,” said HRCNCF President Bob Karp. He noted that Tisher's answers to the questionnaire were weak in some areas. For example, Tisher said that “gender transition services are life changing, but not usually medically necessary” when responding to whether the

HRCNCF endorses:

On Nov. 6 general election ballot:

YES on State Constitutional Amendment 4
(Voting Restoration)

YES on Alachua County Question 1
(½ mill ad valorem taxes for Children's Trust)

YES on Alachua County Question 2
(½ cent sales surtax to Improve School Facilities)

NO on Gainesville Charter Amendment 1
(GRU Authority)

YES on Gainesville Charter Amendment 2
(City Commission Elections & Terms of Office)

Three ways to vote:

Vote by Mail: Contact the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252 or at www.VoteAlachua.com to have a ballot mailed to you.

Vote Early: Early voting runs from October 22 to November 3 at the Supervisor of Elections Office, 515 N. Main St., the University of Florida Reitz Union, the Millhopper and Tower Road libraries, Legacy Park in Alachua, and Melrose United Methodist Church. Hours are 9 AM to 6 PM daily.

Vote on Election Day: Vote in your assigned polling precinct on Tuesday, November 6 from 7 AM to 7 PM.

School Board should cover gender transition services for their employees.

As for local state legislative races, Democrat Jason Haeseler won the State House District 21 Democratic primary to face off against incumbent Republican Chuck Clemons.

“Jason Haeseler provided excellent responses to the HRCNCF questionnaire. He clearly understands the importance of expanding LGBT rights on a statewide level,” said Karp. Haeseler responded that he would support a bill

that would ban the practice of conversion therapy, which he called “a cruel and abhorrent practice.”

Clemons did not respond to the questionnaire. District 21 covers much of western Alachua County, but also includes Dixie and Gilchrist Counties.

In the State Senate District 8 race, which covers all of Alachua and Putnam Counties as well as the northern part of Marion County, Democrat Kayser Enneking won the Democratic primary to challenge Republican State Senator Keith Perry and former Gainesville City Commissioner Charles Goston, who is running without party affiliation.

“Enneking’s questionnaire responses were well reasoned and demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing LGBT issues,” said Bassham. For example, Enneking stated she would both support and sign on as a co-sponsor of the Competitive Workforce Act, which seeks to expand LGBT protections statewide. Perry’s response offered no such support for the bill.

When asked about transgender individuals using restroom facilities that correspond to their gender identity, Perry responded: “I oppose any measure that would empower voyeurism simply by claiming a different gender identity.”

“The idea that ‘empowering voyeurism’ is involved when a transgender individual uses a restroom means that Senator Perry is simply out of touch with reality at best, or he holds a special animus against transgender folks at worst,” said Bassham.

For Congress District 3, which covers all of Alachua County, former Gainesville City Commissioner and Democrat Yvonne Hayes Hinson faces off against incumbent Republican Ted Yoho. Yoho did not return questionnaire responses. He received a 0% score from the Human Rights Campaign for his current term in Congress.

Hayes Hinson noted that she supports the federal Equality Act which would ban LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; she also would support legislation that allows transgender individuals to serve openly in the armed forces.

In addition to voting early from Oct. 22 to Nov. 3, voters may request a vote-by-mail ballot by calling the Supervisor of Elections Office at 352-374-5252 or ordering one on-line at www.votealachua.com. On Election Day, Nov. 6, voters must go to their assigned precinct polling locations to cast a ballot.

2018 HRCNCF Questionnaire Responses for Candidates on Nov. 6 Election Ballot

For full candidate Q&A, visit online at www.hrcnfc.org.

Responses to Alachua County Commission Candidate Questionnaire

No responses from District 2 candidate Gregory Caudill (LPF) and Ward Scott (write-in).

1. **Do you support an ordinance which would prohibit state-licensed practitioners from carrying out the practice of “conversion therapy” for minors within Alachua County? Conversion therapy is counseling based on the erroneous assumption that LGBTQ identities are mental disorders that can be cured through treatment. This ordinance would not outlaw the practice among non-licensed persons, such as those associated with faith-based organizations.**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I do not under any circumstances believe in conversion therapy and would absolutely support an ordinance prohibiting this practice. Conversion therapy is a fundamentally flawed and discriminatory practice that drives people to depression, anxiety and suicide. I believe it is my role as a leader to take a very public stand and fight discrimination and embrace all residents of our community.

MARIHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): Yes, indeed I would support this ordinance. In the 22 years of teaching in Gainesville, I’ve watched an increasing number of young people grapple with sexual identity in Middle School as the subject is more openly discussed. Open discussion is the best way to address any confusion minors experience as they navigate through the

issues of human sexuality, not heavy handed directives or threats from those who would “fix” the problem.

2. **The Florida Competitive Workforce Act (HB 347 and SB 66) seeks to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity statewide in employment, housing and public accommodations. Would you support an Alachua County resolution that would urge the Florida Legislature to pass this bill?**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I absolutely would support this resolution and hope we see this finally pass in both the house and the senate. There is no place for discrimination and Florida should be open for business for all. Diversity creates a stronger economy. It creates more jobs, more opportunity and stronger communities.

MARIHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): The simple answer is yes, I would support such a resolution to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as outlined.

3. **Do you advocate diversity training for county employees to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues? If so, how would you improve or strengthen this training?**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I believe our county should be the example for the community. I believe that clear, communicated policies and actions to advance inclusion is

where you start. I have read the diversity and inclusion plan that was instituted in 2016 that includes mandatory training for all staff members. I do feel that it would be wrong for me to suggest improvements or how the county should strengthen the training they provide until I am able to see first hand what specific training is covered and how it is implemented. I will be better prepared to answer what improvements are necessary after I have experienced the training to see what could be improved upon.

MARIEHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): I would advocate training for county employees to include these issues as our society is becoming more open and better informed. Social norms are slowly evolving and teachers and police officers particularly are in situations that require updated knowledge of trends and activities that address psychological challenges that come from such change. I would support the requirement that these issues be addressed and updated yearly through inservice requirements in education, law enforcement and perhaps medical personnel.

4. **Do you support the County's annual proclamations in recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Days?**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I do. Proclamations raise awareness and officially recognize milestones, community events, heroic acts and issues. It is both ceremonial and educational. I applaud the past commissions for doing this and will vote to continue the practice.

MARIEHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): I do support these proclamations and am glad to participate in such events. I find many of my students and former students at these events and have the opportunity to show support and acceptance for who they are as human beings.

5. **In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule as part of the Affordable Care Act that prohibits discrimination in health programs and activities that receive funding from HHS. Prior to the implementation of this rule most individual and group health plans excluded coverage for gender transition services. After January 1, 2017, fully insured individual and group policies that receive funding from HHS will include coverage for gender transition services. This rule applies differently to large employer plans that are "self-funded". A self-funded plan is one where the employer assumes the health plan liability and risk in exchange for more control over the plan's administration and funding levels. Alachua County is a self-funded entity. Do you support Alachua County including coverage for gender transition services for their own employees?**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I do support Alachua County including coverage. Again, our county should be the leader by

example and make this a part of their insurance. We are a welcoming county. Part of this encompasses eliminating prejudice, celebrating diversity and creating a more inclusive place for all. I applaud the county for changing their insurance to include this last year.

MARIEHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): I would support Alachua County addressing the demands for increased health coverage to meet the needs of our changing society. These health care needs should be considered significant enough to be covered by a self-funded plan.

6. **Briefly, why are you running for this elected office?**

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION District 2:

SCOTT COSTELLO (NPA): I have been active for almost 30 years behind the scenes in the Greater Gainesville community, earning the support of members of both parties, including Lee Pinkoson, Rod Smith, Chuck Clemons, Gib Coerper and Jordan Marlowe. My support has always been based on the individual and his/her policies and not based on party. As our community and our nation become more and more divided along party lines, I see the majority losing interest. More importantly, I see many being left feeling like they don't have a voice. Even more so, there seems to be a lack of common sense in many of the decisions. Fixing our roads, protecting our children and giving everyone the opportunity to live a happy, safe, fulfilling life and provide for their families should not be partisan issues. Both the environment and the people who live in the community are important. It has been my life's mission to make a difference in this community. I started Taste of Greater Gainesville 9 years ago to do just that. I serve on the PALS Thrive board to deal with youth suicide and fight bullying. I have served for 10 years on the Child Advocacy Center Board to help children who have suffered from abuse. I am a strong advocate for Resilience Charter School that cultivates a dynamic community and embraces children who need to know that it is ok to come out. I watched as they transformed my daughter, who has felt isolated since coming out 3 years ago transform into a beautiful young adult and has such incredible friends that are straight, gay, bisexual and in different stages of gender transition. She encouraged me to run and asked me to make a difference. These are some of the issues I see and want to be that person on the commission that can make sure ALL residents of our community have a voice.

MARIEHELEN WHEELER (DEM.): I have been an advocate for children and working families and environmental issues, but have never had the platform to truly influence decision making on these important issues. I have a unique perspective of problem solving coming from a background of public service and will bring balance to the Alachua County Commission. The educational and economic inequities we have identified are those my skill set as an educator provides me with: insights, communication and cooperative abilities.

**Responses to
School Board of Alachua County Candidate Questionnaire**

7. **National studies have shown that harassment and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) youth, and those who are perceived as gay, in public schools leads to higher dropout rates and up to three times the rate of suicide among LGBT teens compared to their straight peers. Would you vote to support implementation of an anti-bullying policy that specifically protects LGBT as well as other vulnerable students?**

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3:

GUNNAR PAULSON: I support a policy protecting LBGT as well as other vulnerable students. The School Board of Alachua County Policy 5517 states the following: The superintendent will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race, color, sex (Including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity). This is just part of the policy. I will look further into what we can do with our policies to protect our students.

APRIL TISHER: Yes, I believe that all students deserve a safe school environment regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

8. **Please provide an example of one proactive measure that the School Board could take to provide a safer, friendlier learning environment for LGBT students.**

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3:

GUNNAR PAULSON: Our district is implementing the following this summer and next fall with a variety of proactive measures. ● Training for gay/straight club sponsors. ● Equality Florida is coming this summer to give training to our district administrators, school counselors, deans, brt/s, etc. ● ACCPTA (County Parent/Teacher Assc.) is organizing training for all paraprofessionals. (I am on the executive board for ACCPTA).

APRIL TISHER: Providing training for staff as well as students is a start. Also ensuring that all students know who their school guidance counselor and/or social worker is on campus and that there are a safe person to talk to is invaluable.

9. **Do you support the formation of student clubs known as "Gay-Straight Alliances" which provide an opportunity for gay and nongay students to meet together on school property as do other extracurricular clubs?**

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3:

GUNNAR PAULSON: Yes, I support the formation of student clubs known as "Gay-Straight Alliances." In our school district we have such clubs already in our district. There are represented with various names. The following are some of the clubs in our district. Gay-Straight Alliance = Are presently at GHS and Lofton. Diversity is at Kanapaha Middle School, Lights are at Buchholz. I am not sure how many more clubs we

have, but I certainly will research how many more clubs we have, support them and make sure our policies are written to support them.

APRIL TISHER: I have been reading up on this on the glsen.org website because it was not something I was familiar with. I still feel like I need to do more research on this topic, but in general, I am in support of a respectful environment that promotes tolerance and acceptance and where students of shared interests can come together to learn about each other.

10. **In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule as part of the Affordable Care Act that prohibits discrimination in health programs and activities that receive funding from HHS. Prior to the implementation of this rule most individual and group health plans excluded coverage for gender transition services. After January 1, 2017, fully insured individual and group policies that receive funding from HHS will include coverage for gender transition services. This rule applies differently to large employer plans that are "self-funded". A self-funded plan is one where the employer assumes the health plan liability and risk in exchange for more control over the plan's administration and funding levels. The School Board of Alachua County is a self-funded entity. Do you support the School Board including coverage for gender transition services for their own employees?**

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3:

GUNNAR PAULSON: Yes, I support including coverage for gender transition services for our own employees. I served as chairman for our insurance committee for 10 years before elected to the school board in 2008. I have stayed on the committee since as an ex-officio. We do not meet again to fall. At that time I certainly will bring this issue up for discussion and strongly voice my support to the committee.

APRIL TISHER: I do not know specifically everything that the health plan for SBAC covers or excludes at this time, but do I know that all insurance plans exclude many non-medically necessary procedures. I think it is a difficult decision to make when deciding what life changing medical procedures are covered and which ones are not. For example plastic surgery for someone who has been burned or in an accident may not be medically necessary, but could be life changing. Gender transition services are life changing, but not usually medically necessary.

11. **Briefly, why are you running for this elected office?**

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3:

GUNNAR PAULSON: This is a perilous time concerning public education and the people we elect will define its future. The person we elect must have shown they will fight for our children and make the tough decisions needed to save public education. I have shown continuously I have the proven leadership, strength and vision to meet the challenges we will face. This is why I am running for School Board again!

APRIL TISHER: I have been involved in the Alachua County Public Schools for the past 9 years as a mom, classroom volunteer, PTA member and board member, SAC committee member and a member of the Howard Bishop Community School Community Council. I have learned to be an advocate for my own children in navigating the school system in many aspects; gifted, learning disabilities, life threatening medical conditions, magnet programs, etc. I strongly feel that a parent who currently has children in our school system should have a voice on the school board. That representation is currently missing from our board. I spend time in the schools, in the classrooms and in my home with three current students every day. I think I can provide a perspective that others cannot.

Responses to State House/Senate Candidate Questionnaire

No responses from Chuck Clemons (House District 21) and Charles Goston (Senate District 8).

12. **National studies have shown that harassment and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth leads to higher dropout rates and up to three times the rate of suicide among LGBT teens compared to their non-gay peers. Would you sponsor and/or vote to support a bill that requires school districts to specifically prohibit bullying directed toward students based on real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity, thus creating a safer learning environment for all students?**

STATE SENATE District 8:

KAYSER ENNEKING (DEM.): Yes. The increased suicide rates among our LGBT youth is one of the most tragic and disturbing trends occurring as a result of our failure to establish safe and welcoming environments for children. Crafting policies geared towards creating an atmosphere of acceptance is vitally important for the well-being of our kids and a more tolerant society in the long-run. I would absolutely support the revision of our schools' bullying policies statewide.

KEITH PERRY (REP.): I oppose all bullying.

STATE HOUSE District 21:

JASON HAESELER (DEM.): Bullying in schools is a real and serious issue that needs to be addressed, but specifically it needs to be addressed in regards to the LGBT community. The high rates of dropouts and suicide shows the absolute need for a change. I would both support and sponsor a bill that makes our schools a more inclusive and welcoming environment for ALL students to learn in by banning bullying based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

13. **The Florida Competitive Workforce Act (HB 347 and SB 66) seeks to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in places of employment, housing and public accommodations. Would you co-sponsor this bill, and if it were to come before you for a vote, would you vote for it?**

STATE SENATE District 8:

KAYSER ENNEKING (DEM.): Yes. We have both a moral and constitutional obligation to ensure that all people are treated equally. We cannot allow the discrimination of any person based upon any of their indelible characteristics, sexual orientation and gender identity included. I am entirely in support of the Competitive Workforce Act and plan to both co-sponsor it and vote in favor of it in the State Senate.

KEITH PERRY (REP.): I oppose discrimination and want to make sure any allegations of discrimination undergo adjudication in a manner that is fair to all parties in such matters.

STATE HOUSE District 21:

JASON HAESELER (DEM.): I would both sponsor and vote for this bill. Discrimination is a pervasive problem in our society that can occur in all areas of one's life. Sexual orientation and gender identity should not be a consideration in whether or not you get a job or a decent place to live. A bill protecting the LGBT community from these and any type of discrimination is needed.

14. **Do you support a bill which would prohibit state-licensed practitioners from carrying out the practice of "conversion therapy" for minors in Florida? Conversion therapy is counseling based on the erroneous assumption that LGBTQ identities are mental disorders that can be cured through treatment. This ordinance would not outlaw the practice among non-licensed persons, such as those associated with faith-based organizations. A dozen states and the District of Columbia now ban the practice.**

STATE SENATE District 8:

KAYSER ENNEKING (DEM.): Yes. As I referenced before sexual orientation and gender identity are indelible characteristics of every person. Understanding this any attempt to "cure" an individual of these characteristics is both harmful and wrong. The American Psychological Association and other major professional, medical, and academic institutions have all rejected the merits of conversion therapy. We have an obligation to prevent these inaccurate and flawed so-called treatments being forced upon our youth.

KEITH PERRY (REP.): I support allowing people to choose practitioners that best fits their individual needs or choices.

STATE HOUSE District 21:

JASON HAESELER (DEM.): I would fully support banning conversion therapy for minors in Florida. Identifying as a part of the LGBTQ community is not a disorder that needs to be cured. Conversion therapy is a cruel and abhorrent practice that has no place in our society.

15. **Some states have proposed bills which would both eliminate local LGBT nondiscrimination ordinances as well as restrict transgender individuals to using public bathroom facilities that correspond to the gender listed on**

their birth certificates, as opposed to the gender which they identify with. If a similar bill came before the Florida Legislature, would you vote for or against it? Why or why not?

STATE SENATE District 8:

KAYSER ENNEKING (DEM.): I would vote against any measure like this. Any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is entirely wrong and must be disallowed by law. I would oppose any preemption of local nondiscrimination ordinances. Any attempt to restrict an individual from using a restroom that complies with their gender identity is an act of discrimination that is an affront to every individual's right to be treated equally under the law.

KEITH PERRY (REP.): I oppose any measure that would empower voyeurism simply by claiming a different gender identity.

STATE HOUSE District 21:

JASON HAESELER (DEM.): I would vote against this bill. Non-discrimination ordinances are important to make sure that every person is treated equally and eliminating them would be a large step in the wrong direction. I would also have to vote against a bill that would force transgender individuals to use their birth certificate gender bathroom as it infringes on their individual freedoms.

16. **Briefly, why are you running for this elected office?**

STATE SENATE District 8:

KAYSER ENNEKING (DEM.): As a physician I have advocated for patient safety, measured high quality outcomes, and accessibility of medical services for patients everyday for the past 27 years. I want to bring that much needed experience to the Legislature as the only doctor in the State Senate. My passion for healthcare, my desire to strengthen our public education system, and protect the basic human rights of our people has driven me to run for office.

KEITH PERRY (REP.): To focus on commonsense solutions that serve all people.

STATE HOUSE District 21:

JASON HAESELER (DEM.): I am running for Florida House District 21 because I believe it is time for forward thinking change in Florida. We need a legislature that will work to make sure that every person is equally protected under the law. I was proud to walk my sister down the aisle the day that she married her wife, but marriage equality was only the beginning. There is more work to be done and that is why I am running.

**Responses to
U.S. Congress Candidate Questionnaire**

No responses received from Ted Yoho (District 3).

17. **Do you support or oppose the Equality Act (H.R. 2282, S. 1006) which seeks to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in credit,**

education, employment, federally funded programs, housing, jury service, and public spaces and services?

U.S. CONGRESS District 3:

YVONNE HAYES HINSON (DEM.): I support the Equality Act because I seek to end discrimination in all sectors of our society. Over the years, various laws have allowed discrimination to exist, and it is insane that these problems exist today. It is my mission to put an end to this. Since the creation of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, discrimination has been a pressing issue in congress. The decline of explicit discrimination does not mark its absence. We must continue to press on, in search of discrimination's abatement.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018, AT 7:00 PM AT PRIDE
COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA, 3131
NW 13TH ST, GAINESVILLE

The Guardian is published quarterly.

18. **Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit businesses to discriminate against LGBT and other protected classes of people based on the business owner's religious beliefs? Why or why not?**

U.S. CONGRESS District 3:

YVONNE HAYES HINSON (DEM.): Businesses are not supported by employee's religious beliefs and should not be run based on these beliefs. Members of the LGBT community deserve to be treated as more than second class citizens. Anyone's personal beliefs and values, should not exempt them from treating these individuals as less than deserving of their service. If an owner wants to incorporate their religion into the workplace, then they should work at the church, instead of owning a business.

19. **Do you support or oppose legislation which would allow transgender military service members to serve openly?**

U.S. CONGRESS District 3:

YVONNE HAYES HINSON (DEM.): I support legislation that allows transgender military service members to serve. There should be no limits on their ability to serve, and there should be no limits on who is eligible to serve. If women and men can serve openly, then so can transgender.

20. **In a turnabout from the previous administration, the U.S. Department of Education said it is no longer investigating civil rights complaints from transgender students barred from school bathrooms that match their gender identity. In May a federal court in Virginia ruled in favor of Gavin Grimm, a transgender teen who has been fighting for the**

right to use the school restroom that aligns with his gender identity. Do you support or oppose allowing transgender students to use the school bathroom facilities that align with their gender identities?

U.S. CONGRESS District 3:

YVONNE HAYES HINSON (DEM.): Before the government's intrusion and political controversy, they were already doing it and nobody ever knew nor complained about it and I am very comfortable with them continuing to do so. Leaving these individuals to use a bathroom to which they do not identify, leaves them susceptible to unnecessary abuse. A person should be able to go to the bathroom without being afraid that they will be ridiculed or harmed.

21. Briefly, why are you running for this elected office?

U.S. CONGRESS District 3:

YVONNE HAYES HINSON (DEM.): I am running for election because I feel that I have been called to bring equity to our district and indeed our country. With my experiences in education, city commission and multiple different leadership roles, I believe that I can help push this district forward where we all can have domestic tranquility. I plan to reform and improve the current status quo including LGBT policies that the people can believe in and by truly setting a path for others to follow. If not me, then who? We all know it will not be Ted Yoho.