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# York Area Lambda

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## 1993 LESBIAN AND GAY VOTERS GUIDE YORK AREA LAMBDA (FORMERLY YORK SUPPORT)

All candidates for Mayor, City Council and School Board received a questionnaire from York Area Lambda, asking for a reply to relevant questions. Candidates who did not reply were given a second and third opportunity to respond. Below we have listed each candidate's response(s) to both the May Primary Election Questionnaire, and the current General Election Questionnaire, exactly as written by the candidate.

Candidates were requested to reply by mail; those who failed to respond are indicated by "No Response". Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by category.

Discerning a candidate's views from their written response is sometimes difficult. Should you need clarification of any candidate's views, please contact the candidate directly. (York Area Lambda can supply addresses: contact us at P.O. Box 2425, York, PA 17405)

### PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTION FOR MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

**Question: On February 23, 1993, Mayor Althaus signed an ordinance making discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal. Do you feel this is a good law which should remain on the books, or a bad law that should be repealed? Briefly explain your position on this issue.**

#### CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

ANNE L. BERRY: (Republican) On February 18, 1993, I announced my candidacy for Mayor of the City of York. In that announcement, I said "Our strength is our diversity, our ability to change to meet challenges and our community of champions". I firmly believe that the ordinance making discrimination based upon sexual orientation illegal is necessary to protect people from those who believe it is their responsibility to judge and punish.

CHARLES H. ROBERTSON: (Democrat) If elected, I intend to support public policies that promote justice and dignity for all York citizens

#### CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

CAROL DOWNS BRADY: (Democrat) I feel that the recent anti-discrimination ordinance is a good law. A person's sexual orientation is a private matter which does not affect his/her job performance or ability to be a good tenant, or homeowner.

RAYMOND CRENSHAW: (Democrat) I voted for the ordinance.

RON RUMAN: (Republican) I believe the gay rights ordinance is a good law which should remain on the books. I have been a consistent and strong supporter of this law, because I believe it is a needed anti-discrimination measure. As a member of York City United, I have been working hard to fight all types of discrimination, and I introduced the resolution York City United adopted, unanimously, in support of this ordinance when it was being debated before city council. Discrimination is wrong, period. Now that we have this law on the books, it is up to council to see it is enforced. Making sure all our civil rights laws are enforced is a commitment I would bring to city council.

BARRY YUSKO: (Republican) No Response.

## GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION #1

**Question: How would you address issues of concern to lesbian and gay citizens in the City of York?**

### CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

ANNE L. BERRY: (Republican) My experience is this: that the lesbian and gay citizens in the City of York seek to give more to the community than they take. That the hand of friendship is extended without judgment.

1. I will commit to open more doors than I close.
2. I will risk getting to know my neighbors.
3. I will resist the temptation to back away from uncomfortable issues and further fragment our community.

CHARLES H. ROBERTSON: (Democrat) If elected, I intend to support public policies that promote justice and dignity for all York citizens.

### CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

CAROL DOWNS BRADY: (Democrat) I would research the current city ordinances for measures available to protect all citizens from discrimination. I would investigate any complaints of unfair treatment or other concerns.

RAYMOND CRENSHAW: (Democrat) No Response.

RON RUMAN: (Republican) As a representative of all the people, one of my prime responsibilities would be to insure that the civil rights of all the people are protected. This means I would insist on vigorous enforcement of our recently passed civil rights ordinance, which I have supported since its proposal, guaranteeing gay and lesbian citizens basic civil rights protection. I would also work to make sure our police force was aware of situations in which gay and lesbian citizens are victims of hate crimes, even though Pennsylvania law does not yet recognize "gay bashing" as a hate crime.

BARRY YUSKO: (Republican) In the same fashion I would address issues of concern as they may relate to heterosexual members of the City of York. Your question is somewhat vague, to say the least, as you have not defined "areas of concern". As an elected official (sic) I will address all citizens concerns.

## GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION #2

**Question: Would you be willing to meet with and seek input from members of the lesbian and gay community?**

### CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

ANNE L. BERRY (Republican) Yes.

CHARLES H. ROBERTSON: (Democrat) Yes.

### CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

CAROL DOWNS BRADY: (Democrat) Yes. I have already.

RAYMOND CRENSHAW: (Democrat) No Response.

RON RUMAN: (Republican) Absolutely. I would be willing to meet with any individual or group and try to help them find a solution to their problem. Also, as a member of city council, I would use my position to bring public pressure to bear to see that the concerns of the gay and lesbian community receive prompt attention and action from the proper authorities. I have been an active member of York City United, our community's anti-hate group coalition, since it formed. My goal is to move York toward the day we need no longer view anyone as belonging to a "group", and simply respect and appreciate our neighbors for who they are and the worth they bring to our community.

BARRY YUSKO: (Republican) I would be willing to meet with and entertain the input (sic) of any citizen of the City of York as long as said input (sic) is beneficial to the entire community as a whole.

## PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTION FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

**Question:** Do you believe that gay and lesbian students should have equal access like their non-gay classmates to a non-threatening learning environment, school services (such as gay-affirmative guidance counselors), and accurate information (e.g. health, history and literature) relevant to being gay and lesbian? Briefly explain your position on these issues.

PATSY S. BROWN: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

KERRY L. KIRKLAND: (Democrat) I believe that all students have a right to attend school in a learning environment free of discrimination and harassment regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

BETTY SCHONAUER: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

ANN T. SKEHAN: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

KEN SMITH: (Democrat/Republican) I believe all students should be afforded the opportunity to receive a quality education in a non-threatening environment, within the guidelines established by law.

## GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION #1

**Question:** Thirty percent (30%) of suicides among high school age students are committed by lesbian and gay youth struggling with their sexual orientation. How would you increase the awareness and sensitivity of teachers and guidance counselors to this issue?

PATSY S. BROWN: (Democrat/Republican) We are all aware of the growing problem of teen suicide, for whatever reason, and everyone dealing with teens should be aware of the problem. While it is not an educational problem per say (sic), teachers should be sensitive to any changes in a students behavior or attitudes. Teachers and others in the education system should be exposed to some levels of crisis intervention as well as sensitivity training to enable them to better communicate and deal with as many of the problems our youth encounter as possible. Teen suicide is not limited to any particular race, religion, sex, family background or sexual orientation. Educators are only one level of contact and frequently the most restricted by time, legalities, sheer numbers and the inability to reach a student on a one to one basis. The family and others dealing with these teens on a close personal relationship must share more of the burden. The school system isn't a "cure all".

KERRY L. KIRKLAND: (Democrat) No Response.

BETTY SCHONAUER: (Democrat/Republican) It is a well-established fact that all adolescents struggle with issues regarding their sexuality. As a school director I do not directly train teachers and guidance counselors, but rather set policies which encourage all staff to be aware of and sensitive to important student concerns and issues and to make referrals to community resources when needed. We also have in place a multi-facted (sic) team for dealing with "at-risk" youngsters and those potentially self-destructive.

ANN T. SKEHAN: (Democrat/Republican) The goal of any system of education is to teach principles which may be applied to individual situations. A principle is defined as "a rule of conduct" or "an ultimate truth". The principle which answers both your questions is that ALL human life has dignity and is valuable not because of who or what it is but just because it IS (exists). Just as a school would not teach the principle of gravity by pointing to its individual application so it would not teach human dignity by individual application.

Research has shown that suicide is the result of spiritual brokenness of some kind and the lack of focus on the meaning of life. This is true of whoever commits the act. The need for sensitivity to the problems of all is necessary to reduce the number of those who feel this ultimate despair.

As with all values anti-discrimination is "caught not taught". We either learn to respect life as a fall-out of other learning or we learn it by observation. A student does not see discrimination all around him and then go into a classroom situation and change behavior. As long as some human life is devalued we are all in danger of discrimination.

KEN SMITH: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

**GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION #2**  
**SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

**Question: We are seeing an alarming increase in acts of intolerance and bigotry in our society. What anti-discriminatory programs would you introduce in the lower grades to increase understanding and acceptance of all students?**

**PATSY S. BROWN:** (Democrat/Republican) Discrimination against anyone or group is an act of ignorance, unfortunately, it is generally taught at home. Children must be taught at an early age that the world is filled with differences in color, religion, beliefs, attitudes and ways of life. They must understand that none of these differences would matter when dealing with other people. Citizenship and the concept that we were all created equal must be reinforced. Coexistence and acceptance are an ideal that should be introduced early on and reinforced at every level. Also, while acts of bigotry should not be overlooked, we also cannot make the reprisals more fuel for the fire. Children must be taught self-respect and respect for others, regardless of differences in order to tear down discriminatory barriers of all kind. This respect must come from all levels of learning and must continue throughout life in order to ensure freedom for all.

**KERRY L. KIRKLAND:** (Democrat) No Response.

**BETTY SCHONAUER:** (Democrat/Republican) The York City School District has a long history of tolerance supported by anti-discriminatory policies which were put in place by the Board of School Directors. Because of our diverse student population we have the opportunity on a daily basis of helping even our youngest students know and appreciate children of other races, cultures, and religions. The policies of this district in every way support and encourage this important aspect of education.

**ANN T. SKEHAN:** (Democrat/Republican) See above response.

**KEN SMITH:** (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

**GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION**  
**CANDIDATE FOR YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**Question: Would you work to include sexual orientation in the ethnic intimidation act?**

**H. STANLEY REBERT:** The current legislation concerning ethnic intimidation is limited to malicious action toward the race, color, religion, or national origin of another individual or group of individuals. Any attempt to expand this definition must be accomplished by the legislature.

**YORK AREA LAMBDA** is an organization whose members are lesbians and gay men and their supporters. Y.A.L. provides social activities; assistance and education on social issues; a sense of community among ourselves and contributions to the greater community. Our membership list is held in strict confidence. For more information on Y.A.L., write P.O. Box 2425, York, PA 17405.

Following the inclusion of sexual orientation in the City of York's anti-discrimination law, opponents of the law mounted a campaign to repeal it, by means of a petition which any city resident could sign. The petition, which is public record, fell short of the number needed by several hundred signatures. Of the candidates for offices included in this voters guide, the following candidates signed the petition:

**Ann T. Skehan, Candidate for School Board**  
**Barry Yusko, Candidate for City Council**

# YORK AREA LAMBDA

## 1993 Lesbian & Gay Voters Guide

### CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (FOUR POSITIONS OPEN)

QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS LIKE THEIR NON-GAY CLASSMATES TO A NON-THREATENING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, SCHOOL SERVICES (SUCH AS GAY-AFFIRMATIVE GUIDANCE COUNSELORS), AND ACCURATE INFORMATION (E.G. HEALTH, HISTORY, AND LITERATURE) RELEVANT TO BEING GAY AND LESBIAN? BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES.

PATSY S. BROWN: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

KERRY L. KIRKLAND: (Democrat) I believe that all students have a right to attend school in a learning environment free of discrimination and harassment regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

BETTY SCHONAUER: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

H. DITA SHANK: (Democrat/Republican) All children must be taught to respect everyone. That means you don't hit and call each other names. Everyone is important. Actions toward other people are judged, not life-styles. I do not have to agree with you, to value your right to make a statement.

ANN T. SKEHAN: (Democrat/Republican) No Response.

KEN SMITH: (Democrat/Republican) I believe all students should be afforded the opportunity to receive a quality education in a non-threatening environment, within the guidelines established by law.

1993 LESBIAN AND GAY VOTERS GUIDE  
YORK AREA LAMBDA  
(FORMERLY YORK SUPPORT)

All candidates for Mayor, City Council and School Board received a questionnaire from York Area Lambda, asking for a reply to a relevant question. Candidates who did not reply were given a second opportunity to respond. Responses to the questions are listed below, exactly as written by the candidate. Candidates were requested to reply by mail; those who failed to respond are indicated by "No Response". Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by category.

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

QUESTION: ON FEBRUARY 23, 1993, MAYOR ALTHAUS SIGNED AN ORDINANCE MAKING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION ILLEGAL. DO YOU FEEL THIS IS A GOOD LAW WHICH SHOULD REMAIN ON THE BOOKS, OR A BAD LAW THAT SHOULD BE REPEALED? BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

ANNE L. BERRY: (Republican) On February 18, 1993, I announced my candidacy for Mayor of the City of York. In that announcement, I said "Our strength is our diversity, our ability to change to meet challenges and our community of champions". I firmly believe that the ordinance making discrimination based upon sexual orientation illegal is necessary to protect people from those who believe it is their responsibility to judge and punish.

DAVID KREBS: (Republican) I believe this ordinance should be repealed for the following reasons:

1. A homosexual is a person who is living an ungodly, and sexually unnatural lifestyle. The law gives credibility and respectability to that lifestyle and special rights to promote that lifestyle.

2. A homosexual needs spiritual help to leave that lifestyle to become the man or woman that God intended him or her to be. That person must recognize his need of help, then seek God's help to change. The ordinance gives him a false sense of security, with no need to seek that help.

3. The laws and ordinances of the state and city gave all the necessary legal protection to homosexuals prior to the passage of this ordinance. Therefore, this ordinance is unnecessary.

I do not support violence, unusual punishment, or harrassment against homosexuals. I simply seek to win them to Christ in love.

DONALD T. MURPHY, JR.: (Democrat) I felt this was unnecessary legislation. However, to repeal the law would in itself create unnecessary legislation.

CHARLES H. ROBERTSON: (Democrat) If elected, I intend to support public policies that promote justice and dignity for all York citizens.

HELEN E. ROHRBAUGH: (Republican) Discrimination in any form, at any time, is an unfair and unjust policy. I supported the City Council's resolution regarding discrimination against sexual orientation. All people, of all persuasions, have the fundamental right of protection from prejudice and ignorance.

TERESA SPIEGEL: (Democrat) I feel the ordinance was and is unnecessary. All people are protected under state and federal laws. I will do nothing to appeal this law. It is law now so why waste more time and money to change it. All people should be treated the same. Who am i to judge how any-one lives. I do not approve of this life style, but i never based my opinions on any-ones sex or sexual behavior.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL  
(TWO POSITIONS OPEN)

CAROL DOWNS BRADY: (Democrat) I feel that the recent anti-discrimination ordinance is a good law. A person's sexual orientation is a private matter which does not affect his/her job performance or ability to be a good tenant, or homeowner.

RAYMOND CRENSHAW: (Democrat) I voted for the ordinance.

ROBERT S. ERB, SR.: (Democrat) This law should be repealed. If I'm given the opportunity that exactly what I would do. The gay movement today is main stream. I do not believe they need a separate law The constitution protect them as well as my self

RON RUMAN: (Republican) I believe the gay rights ordinance is a good law which should remain on the books. I have been a consistent and strong supporter of this law, because I believe it is a needed anti-discrimination measure. As a member of York City United, I have been working hard to fight all types of discrimination, and I introduced the resolution York City United adopted, unanimously, in support of this ordinance when it was being debated before city council. Discrimination is wrong, period. Now that we have this law on the books, it is up to council to see it is enforced. Making sure all our civil rights laws are enforced is a commitment I would bring to city council.

SHIRLEY RUTH: (Republican) I am opposed to the recent ordinance that was voted on and passed by the Mayor and City Council. I would be in favor of repealing it. The reason being as a Christian knowing what the Bible teaches about the homosexual life style, that it is morally wrong, and a clear departure from the teaching of the Bible. Also I think under the Constitution of the U.S.A. the gay community already has the same rights as anyone else. God created Adam and Eve He blessed them and said be fruitful and multiply, He did not create Adam and Steve.

BARRY YUSKO: (Republican) No Response.

(OVER)