

CAPPAC

www.cappac.net

CAPPAC is a non-partisan political action committee formed to promote the civil rights and ensure the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through the political process.

CAPPAC focuses on California's capital region and on races and initiatives of statewide and national importance to the LGBT community.

CAPPAC and the LGBT community support candidates and office holders who demonstrate leadership as we work toward total equality in civil rights. Your response to the following questions will aid our board in ascertaining your level of commitment on these issues.

CAPPAC endorsements are based on: A candidate's support of CAPPAC's mission, demonstrated support of LGBT issues and candidate viability. We may request an interview before making an endorsement. Dual endorsements are the exception, but possible within a single race.

Candidate Name Kriss Worthington

Office being sought California State Assembly, District 14

Campaign ID# 1301557

Committee Name Friends of Kriss Worthington

Campaign Address 2808 Hillegass Avenue #1, Berkeley, CA 94705

Campaign Phone 510-548-8796 Fax

Please return completed questionnaire no later than April 1, 2008 to

Michael Miiller, Chair, Endorsement Committee:

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or

Mail: 1008 10th Street, PMB 255, Sacramento, CA 95814

If you have any questions, please call (916) 204-0485

2008 CAPPAC Endorsement Questionnaire

Please use drop downs to answer questions. If you answer "other," please use space provided to explain.

Health

1) Would you support increased funding and access to culturally competent health care services that are sensitive to the needs of LGBT Californians?

Yes Please explain: I have actively led the charge to get funding for HIV/AIDS and LGBT services. I am a passionate advocate of cultural competency in education and social service provision. I sponsored sensitivity training programs for city employees that include LGBT awareness, language accessibility, and homeless sensitivity. I believe that direct service providers must receive the adequate tools to sensitively and compassionately interact with the diverse populations that they serve.

2) Would you support reproductive rights and services that are sensitive to the needs of LGBT Californians?

Yes Please explain: I strongly support reproductive rights. A woman's right to choose is a fundamental moral and legal right. Not only have I stood up in support of choice but I have opposed the numerous disgusting attacks on girls and women disguised as parental notification, such as Proposition 85. Most recently, I am actively discouraging people from signing the misnamed "Sarah's Law". I even persuaded one petition circulator to stop circulating it! Back in September 2007, I sponsored opposition to the sexual abuse reporting act (Initiative 1249). And recently, I sponsored City opposition to the nomination of Richard Honaker. In addition to taking City government action, I also activate others to lobby as well through speaking at organizations or flyering to interested individuals. I have actively opposed numerous other anti-choice judicial nominees. I signed on and showed up to support Oakland's creation of a program to protect women being harassed when entering a clinic.

I also believe that reproductive health services should be sensitive to the needs and experiences of all Californians, regardless of gender and sexuality (or any other identity basis). I would strongly support legislation to increase accessibility accordingly.

3) Would you oppose legislation that would weaken privacy protections for Californians living with HIV/AIDS?

Yes Please explain: I am a strong supporter of privacy protections for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. I have supported legislation in the past that would increase these protections and fight harassment and discrimination that HIV/AIDS patients often live with.

4) Do you support increased state and local funding for HIV/AIDS research, treatment, and prevention?

Yes Please explain: I have been supportive of research, treatment, and prevention on local, state and national levels in the past. At the city level, I have fought to protect crucial social service programs which include health treatment programs, from annual budget cuts. I have also sponsored legislation supporting harm-reduction programs such as needle exchange to control the spread of diseases where possible.

5) Do you support funding for medically necessary sex reassignment surgery for those diagnosed with gender dysphoria or gender identity disorder?

Yes Please explain: Insurance companies, and sometimes employers themselves, are often unaware of the medical needs and experiences of transgender individuals. In those instances, sex reassignment surgery is viewed as cosmetic rather than medically and biologically necessary. I support the inclusion of sex reassignment surgery for gender dysphoria and gender identity disorder patients as a medical necessity. In the City of Berkeley, we are currently working to expand health coverage to include this type of surgery for transgender employees, much like San Francisco's policy. It has been demonstrated in other cities to be morally right while having little budget impact when negotiated correctly with the insurance companies.

6) Do you support efforts to remove sexual orientation from consideration when making blood, sperm, organ, tissue and other similar donations?

Yes Please explain: Discrimination based on sexual orientation is ludicrous in any context. But the discrimination that occurs in blood, sperm, and organ donation, where appropriate safety and testing policies are already in place, is inexplicable. I support efforts to remove this discriminatory barrier against the LGBT community.

Employment

1) Would you support efforts to reverse the U.S. Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy thereby allowing LGBT Americans to openly serve?

Yes Please explain: I sponsored and passed a city council item to reverse the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. I have also lobbied US Representatives, Senators, and Presidential candidates to urge the reversal of this discriminatory policy.

2) Would you oppose any legislation or ballot initiative that would reverse any civil rights including but not limited to employment and housing protections, benefits, or rights that currently exist in law for LGBT Californians?

Yes Please explain: I have already opposed multiple ballot measures. I am actively supporting "Don't Sign" efforts on the anti-domestic partners initiative and the anti-marriage equality initiative.

3) Would you hire qualified LGBT individuals to work on your campaign and in your office if elected?

Yes Please explain: At the city level, I have hired qualified LGBT individuals to work in my City Council office, including one who eventually became a City Councilmember himself. On our campaign, we are proud to be working with former San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz who is our fundraising consultant. We also have the support of numerous LGBT community leaders and young LGBT leaders who are volunteering with us.

4) Would you support the appointment of qualified LGBT individuals to government positions?

Yes Please explain: I have supported and actively helped to recruit qualified LGBT individuals for appointment and election to all levels of government. As the first openly gay member of the Berkeley City Council, I have worked to appoint numerous very qualified LGBT individuals to city commissions, including a number of people who became the chairs of their respective commissions). I have also worked to help many LGBT leaders in our community to get elected to offices such as City Council, Rent Board, and Community College Boards. I will continue this work when I am in Sacramento.

Education/Youth

1) Do you support informing and training all school personnel on laws prohibiting discrimination in schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or actual or perceived gender?

Yes Please explain: I support sensitivity and anti-discrimination training for any public employees who frequently work with LGBT youth. In my time as City Councilmember, I have successfully passed and implemented legislation that requires LGBT training for our police officers, which includes a four-hour session on transgender awareness.

2) Do you support informing students of both their rights and responsibilities on anti bias and non-discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or actual or perceived gender?

Yes Please explain: I think that it is important to send clear signals to young people that bias and discrimination are unacceptable, based on sexual orientation or gender, as well as on any other identity basis. I support expanding curriculum to include information about the LGBT community and the rights of students and individuals in these communities.

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

3) Do you support the rights of students to form gay-straight alliance clubs on school campuses in order to fight homophobia on campus and provide support to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and for such clubs to have equal access to resources as other clubs on campus?

Yes Please explain: I have actively supported both students and teachers in creating youth groups at the high school and junior high school level. When a teacher was harrassed for being the sponsor for a gay-straight student group, I organized a community response to provide encouragement and support to her.

4) Do you support legislation and efforts to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn safely at school, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation and holding schools accountable for implementation of these laws?

Yes Please explain: I have contributed to support the youth lobbying activities to make our schools safe for LGBT youth.

Family Issues

1) Do you support adoptions that do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status?

Yes Please explain: I have written letter support letters to encourage individual lesbian and gay couples to be able to adopt children. I have supported administrative policy changes to take away any obstacles in the way of LGBT parental opportunities. We have so many children who are in need of loving families, and it is completely unacceptable to deny LGBT couples the opportunity to provide a safe and loving environment for these children.

2) Do you support California's existing Domestic Partner laws that grant nearly all the rights and responsibilities afforded married couples including tax and inheritance equity?

Yes Please explain: We have gradually expanded domestic partner laws to a well-orchestrated series of new laws year after year. Equality California has been strategically present in coordinating one reform after another, and I have supported those reforms through council items or in my individual actions.

3) Do you support allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into civil unions?

Yes Please explain: I have supported civil unions and domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples, but more importantly, I have fought to ensure that their rights under these partnerships are expanded and protected.

4) Do you support allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?

Yes Please explain: I sponsored and successfully passed a resolution to make the Berkeley City Council the first city council in the United States to endorse marriage equality in the 1990s.

LGBT Leadership & Ballot Initiatives

1) Would your campaign, and if elected, your office, make a proactive effort to employ LGBT staff at all levels?

Yes Please explain: As I have in my city council office and in all my other organizational work, I would proactively work to ensure that my Assembly office employs and promotes diversity at all levels, including LGBT staff and people of color, veterans, and women.

There are currently in circulation initiatives that would both define marriage between a man and woman and roll back existing Domestic Partner rights and responsibilities for LGBT couples.

2) Would you publicly oppose these initiatives?

Yes Please explain: I already have opposed these initiatives, and I will actively continue to do so.

3) Would you take a leadership role in opposing the initiatives and promoting LGBT issues?

Yes Please explain: I have routinely taken the lead in getting our city to take positions on statewide and regional initiatives. I have initiated and sponsored all of the pertinent LGBT policies that have been adopted in Berkeley over the last decade. As an openly gay elected official, I think it is incumbent on me to stand up and speak out for our community in every way, everyday. I have also taken a leadership role in advocating on diversity issues for many other communities because I believe that building coalitions in this process is the best way to ensure collective success.

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** April 9, 2008