

Serving Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community  
P.O. Box 16630 Phoenix, AZ 85011 \* Phone: 602-266-0550 \* Fax: 602-266-0773

## RESPOND TODAY!

As a service to our 45,000+ readers, *Echo Magazine* is compiling information about where candidates stand on GLBT issues. The results will appear in our October 21 issue. To participate, please complete and fax to 602-266-0773. Questions or comments? Call Buddy Early, managing editor, at 602-266-0550.

Candidate Name:  Powell Gammill Office: U.S. Representative, Dist. 2

*Please circle one response for each of the following questions. Feel free to use the space after each question or attach additional sheets to explain or elaborate on your answers.*

1. Do you support a ban on workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation?  
NO; Only in government workplaces would I support such a policy. Non-government workplaces should be as free to discriminate as they wish. It is a private business, based upon a private investment at risk. Government has no legitimate authority in the company's business. Besides, why would you want to work in a place that did not want you? I myself would not wish to work for a business that discriminated against classes of people. Let the free market decide if the business' decisions are wise or foolish, and in this case whether this discriminating business gets the best employees or their rivals do. I place my bets on the rivals.
2. Do you support hate crimes statutes that include sexual orientation and gender identity?  
NO; Hate crime is simply a crime that already exists, with either additional penalties or a lowering of the preponderance of evidence tacked on. Either is a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment's Equal Protection clause. In truth, these "laws" are just political pandering for votes from discriminated groups. Real crimes involve the initiation of force or fraud. If that occurs, malice is involved no matter who is the victim, and the act is already a crime that upon conviction hopefully is reasonably punished.
3. Do you support amending adoption laws to allow same-sex couples the right to adopt children?  
YES; If we truly care about taking care of children, should not we prefer them in the hands of caring adults rather than the indifferent hands of the government? I think so every time.
4. Do you support a repeal of the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the US military?  
YES
5. Do you support amending immigration laws to allow same-sex partners of American citizens to immigrate legally to this country?  
YES: I want to repeal all federal immigration laws as they are unconstitutional. Immigration is not a power of the federal government whose powers are laid out and explicitly limited to the Constitution. Immigration is historically a State prerogative, and is therefore retained by the States under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The harshest of these State laws required an immigrant to be sponsored by a State's citizen, which is the situation described in the above question.

6. Do you support a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between one man and one woman, and ban marriage between same-sex couples? NO; Government, especially the federal government should stay out of the marriage business. I find it interesting that only recently has the government demanded that all married couples pay a tax (with the end of common-law marriages in the states) for the government issued blessing upon the marriage. Marriage is supposed to be a religious, or at least, a contractual procedure, whose only government involvement may come at the tragic time of dissolution of the contract and dividing up the commonly held property in a court of law, if mutually agreeable arrangements cannot be made.
7. Do you support civil unions, with all the same rights as marriage, for same-sex couples? YES; so long as this civil union is contractual in nature, and the contract is no different for any combination of groups other than the number of signatories. I do not support the power of government to demand a legitimate function in the blessing of any marriage.
8. Do you support legal marriage for same-sex couples? NO; any more than I support the legal marriage of heterosexual couples. Government has no business in marriage. Marriage should be conferred by a religious institution and/or by contract.
9. Do you support protecting gay individuals and couples from being discriminated against in housing? NO; Government housing (which is unconstitutional if federally "owned" or subsidized) should be prohibited from discriminating against any group. But private housing, being a private investment must be free to discriminate at will. Government has no legitimate authority in the property owner's business. Besides, why would you want to live in a place that did not want you? I myself would not wish to live in a community that discriminated against classes of people. Let the free market decide if the property owner's decisions are wise or foolish, and in this case whether this discriminating investor gets the best tenants or their rivals do. I place my bets on the rivals.
10. Do you support extending health care benefits to same-sex partners and families of government employees? YES; Unlike private business, government should not be allowed to discriminate since they are funded exclusively by stolen tax payer money. Further, right now the basis for discrimination is that the partner and family did not get a government required marriage license to be recognized as a marriage, and of course in this case the couple is not qualified, because the marriage law's definition excluded them. Either government ends extending health care benefits to every employer, or extends them to every employee. No in between should be tolerated.

*Thank you for responding by Monday, October 4. Fax to 602-266-0773.*