

Sheila Bunn

Dear Fellow Stein Club Member,

I am Sheila Bunn and I am respectfully asking for your vote at the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club's Ward 8 City Council endorsement forum on March 24th from 7-9 pm at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2458 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE.

I was pleased to receive GLAA's highest rating of any candidate in either Ward 4 or 8. The link for GLAA's press release is [here](#).

Over the course of my years of public service, I have always worked to defend the rights of and improve the quality of life of the LGBT community. When I served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, I worked with her to stop the District's 2009 marriage equality bill from being overturned by Congress. I also worked with Congresswoman Norton to rid the District's appropriations bills from riders prohibiting the District from spending locally raised funds on its needle-exchange program which has been instrumental in the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As one of Mayor Gray's senior staff members, I assisted in the launch of the District's first-ever transgender employment initiative under the Department of Employment Services' Project Empowerment Program and in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs. The transgender-specific cohorts of Project Empowerment were designed to increase training and employment opportunities for transgender residents of the District. To reinforce our commitment to the program, we requested a member of the transgender cohort to be placed in the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. The participant proved to be such a great asset to the office that we decided to hire the participant after completion of the Project Empowerment tenure.

Also, as one of Mayor Gray's senior staff members, I facilitated the Mayor's efforts to end discrimination in health insurance on the basis of gender identity or expression with DISB's 2013 issuance of a bulletin that struck trans-exclusionary language from the insurance plans operating in the District. The bulletin made it clear that health insurance companies in the District could no longer deny coverage to transgendered individuals. Further, these insurance companies would now have to cover services like mastectomies for breast cancer and hormone replacement therapy in the same manner that they covered them for their non-transgendered patients.

I am currently a member of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club. I've marched in the Pride Parade and participated in DC Black Pride and Youth Pride festivities over the last 19 years. I have attended fundraisers for LGBT elected officials and celebrations for the victory of marriage equality. During my campaign, I have outreached to churches serving the LGBT community. I believe that one must go directly to where your constituents are in order to learn their issues and effectively represent them.

To learn more about my campaign, please visit my website at www.bunnforward8.com. I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of the LGBT community to shape and frame legislation and policy to strengthen the lives of all District residents.

Best,
Sheila Bunn