



ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

LaVon Bracy Davis

**Running for
Florida House of Representatives
District 40**

Candidate Information

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1. What motivated you to run for this position?

Why are you running?

Floridians should be able to have an assured reliance in the character, ability, strength, and truth of those we elect to public office. And the fact that trust has reached record-breaking lows in our country amongst elected officials stirs the fire within me to prove to you that TRUST is a word that is synonymous with LaVon Bracy Davis.

With no political incentive or any hidden agenda, I humbly chose to run for this office simply because it is TIME.

-Time to send THIS licensed, barred attorney to champion for the safety, security, and permanency of Florida's abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

-Time for THIS mentor, arts advocate, and community servant to fight to provide the necessary resources to organizations that shape our future leaders.

-Time to send THIS candidate to Tallahassee to champion for economic development/empowerment so that small businesses can thrive without the threat of unbearable financial inequity.

-Time for issues relating LGBTQA+ , affordable housing shortage, affordable healthcare, women's rights, civil rights, and equal pay to be answered in a way that preserves the public's best interest and offers thoughtful, reasonable solutions.

-Time for a fresh ear, a fresh perspective, and a fresh start.

-Time to ask the question, "District 40, what is keeping YOU up at night?"

-Time to listen when the people speak, collaborate on the solutions, and get to work!

I am beyond invigorated and motivated to listen, to work, to serve, and to advocate on behalf of the people to create quality jobs and career resources, improve opportunities in the arts and education arenas, protect democracy, provide affordable healthcare, and ensure that equity has priority in every aspect of our lives.

2. What does being an ally or advocate for the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?

I am both an ally and advocate for the LGBTQ community. I am the person who publicly supports the cause and policy of the LGBTQ Community. I have worked to understand the LGBTQ issues and I have developed an understanding of their concerns and things that have caused the LGBTQ community distress. I have committed my life's works to create an inclusive society where people can be themselves. Moreover, I am committed to listening, being educated and speaking out against unfair LGBTQ policies. I say gay!

3. Please summarize your history of community involvement. This may include city boards, civic associations, non-profits, etc.

- Awesome Foundation - Board Member, Orlando Chapter
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies - Board of Directors
- Chair of the Florida Council on Arts and Culture - 15-member advisory council convened to advise the Secretary of State regarding cultural grant funding and matters pertaining to culture in the state of Florida.
- Board member for Pace Center for Girls – Orange County
- Volunteer for Valencia College's Take Stock in Children/Horizons mentorship program
- Advisory committee for the 2020-2025 Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs strategic plan
- Member of the NAACP, Orange County Branch
- Charter member of New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando
- Current member of the Bethel Independent Methodist Church
- Member of the Orlando Jaycees civic organization
- Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc.
- 40 Under 40 Recipient, Orlando Business Journal
- Graduate of the Connect Downtown Orlando, a Downtown Orlando Partnerships initiative

4. Please summarize any work you have performed in the past five years to further LGBTQ+ rights. This may include paid positions, volunteer work, and donations.

Community Advocate. Spoke at Say Gay rally as a featured speaker in downtown Orlando. Booked and programmed over 50 LGBTQ centered events at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Partnered with countless organizations such Zebra Coalition, One Orlando Alliance, Pulse Foundation, OGC and more.

Questions

5. **The rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation barreling down from Tallahassee has caused a sharp increase in discrimination and violence against the LGBTQ+ community in Orange County. How would you go about reducing discrimination in your district or local community? How would you measure your progress?**

I will be your voice. I will use my platform and position to bring about change. I will host rallies and press conferences. I will speak on the house floor. I will walk with you, rally with you and fight with you. Progress sometimes happens slow. But it can be quantified by number of people who hear the message.

6. **Elected officials and office staff are still woefully under-educated on the transgender community. This means that the services their offices provide are often ignorant of the needs of the transgender community. What actions would you take to ensure that the services your office will provide will be educated on and cognizant of the needs of the transgender community?**

My office will have an open door policy. I will seek out organizations that have a goal of educating the public on LGBTQ concerns. I will meet. I will educate. I will become well versed. I will be the voice.

7. **The Florida Republican Party is leading the country in stripping away LGBTQ+ rights, starting with our children. Students are having their lives and livelihoods placed at risk by laws such as the Transgender Sports Ban, the so-called Parental Bill of Rights, and now Don't Say Gay. These shamelessly discriminatory bills are forcing LGBTQ+ families to reconsider their future in Florida. What would you tell the parents of LGBTQ+ children in your district who feel they need to leave Florida in order to protect their children?**

I would remind them that they are not alone. There are people in Tallahassee that have you in mind. You are welcomed here. You have allies here. You are loved and needed in Florida. Floridians get it wrong... but there are some caring Floridians that get it right. I get it right.

8. **The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 45% of LGBTQ+ students seriously considered attempting suicide and 1-in-5 LGBTQ+ attempt it. How would you lead on this issue and work to decrease these statistics over the course of your term in office?**

I have read the Trevor project survey. The statistics are disturbing. I think the first step is access to mental health counseling. I also plan to be a conversation starter about this issue with my colleagues. I will support legislation that funds mental health counseling for the LGBTQ demographic.

- 9. The same survey by The Trevor Project found that nearly all transgender and non-binary students have had to worry about their access to gender-affirming healthcare, bathrooms, and sports teams being taken away from them. How would you work to take this fear off their shoulders so that they can go back to just being kids?**

Advocate for the contrary. Be a voice like Anna Eskamani and Carlos G. Smith. Present a message of love.

- 10. Far-right groups are pushing to ban books on any topic they find disagreeable, such as books on Black history and experiences, immigration, the LGBTQ+ community, climate change, etc. Do you support these book bans? If not, what is your plan to counter them and ensure students have access to a full array of age-appropriate knowledge and experiences?**

My mother is a civil right shero. She wrote a book about it. I do not agree with the book ban. I will support book giveaways. Find sponsorship dollars for books. Create access where the right is creating barriers.

- 11. During a town hall in your district, a constituent describes being gay or transgender as a "lifestyle choice." What is incorrect about their description? How would you constructively respond in this situation?**

Going to the gym and eating healthy is a lifestyle choice. Who you love and how you love is not.

- 12. During a board meeting, the board chair purposely refers to a transgender woman as "he" and "him" as the woman attempts to give her public comment. The woman corrects the board chair each time, insisting that her pronouns are "she" and "her." The board chair continues to misgender the woman until she eventually leaves the chamber in tears. How would you respond in this situation?**

I would correct the board chair on the record. I would publicly admonish them and call out their insensitivity.

- 13. A parent approaches you at an event, insisting that her son's teachers have "groomed" him into liking boys. Her son is at her side when she says this. How do respond to the parent's statement such that the young boy leaves feeling better about himself?**

I would remind the young boy that how he feels is not anyone's fault nor has it been influenced. It is natural and okay. I would encourage him to walk in his truth and remind him that the teacher has nothing to do with who he is or what he is to become.

14. Orange County continues to embrace urban sprawl, despite a plethora of data that links urban sprawl to severe strains on our housing, employment, healthcare, and public transit systems (to name a few). What are your thoughts on Orange County's growth? What could Orange County in terms of development that would better serve the communities in your district?

Growth is good. Keeping up with is not always attainable. We need to address the affordable housing shortage now or Floridians will not be able afford to be Floridians. Employers need to pay \$15 an hour. Employers need to invest in training and education. The legislature needs to invest in affordable healthcare for all and the expansion of medicaid.

15. Do you support the idea of constructing more multi-family homes in neighborhoods traditionally zoned for single-family homes? What impact would this have on your district?

Yes I support it. My district has several multi family homes under construction and due to the house crisis its needed and welcomed.

16. Homeowner Associations often prevent homeowners from transitioning their lawns away from non-functional grasses such as turf and towards sustainable options such as native Florida plants and edible landscapes. HOAs insist that moving away from the traditional pristine green lawn would lower housing prices. What is your opinion on this issue?

HOAs overreach daily. Rules are usually petty and don't have much purposes and don't maintain property value. I am an everyday citizen. I am in a continuous fight with my HOA about landscape, house color, even election/campaign signage.

17. What are the top environmental concerns you are seeing in your District and what are the solutions you plan to bring forward if you were elected?

Waste, pollution and climate change. I will start by educating myself and my district.

18. Contributions are typically linked to poor environmental policies being passed. Are you pledging to stay away from any particular contributions?

Yes

19. Understanding our economic position, how do you plan to localize and strengthen our food system?

Food giveaways. Classes on vegetation and growing food. Gardening classes. Partnerships with second harvest and farm share.