

Question #1: What are the three issues you believe should be a priority in your term?

Linda Dorcena Forry	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Education - Ensuring that every child in our state has access to a quality education and that we invest in early education, community enrichment programs and job training and re-training.2. Jobs/Workforce Training - Creating quality sustainable jobs in our commonwealth, educating our young people with the skills they need to get the unfilled jobs of today and the jobs of the future, protecting small businesses, ensuring access to job sites for women, minorities and veterans, and making sure our workers have safe working environments, prevailing wages, and quality benefits.3. Healthy Families (which includes, healthcare, housing and nutrition) - For our communities to be successful, we must have strong and healthy families. We must support community health centers and work to provide better access to healthcare and control healthcare costs; grow our communities with smart development that includes options for all incomes and family sizes; and make sure our children, seniors and residents have healthy food options and nutritional training.
Nick Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Safety/Public Health• Education• Job Creation & Economic Development
Maureen Dahill	I believe one of the most important parts of a Senator's role is to listen to the concerns and find out the issues that are important to the people of the district. As I travel across this very diverse district and meet people the same issues seems to be arising. Whether you live in South Boston or Mattapan, we all want the same things: safe and secure streets, a quality education for all children, economic opportunities in every neighborhood and a voice in the growth and development of our neighborhoods before the decisions are made. I believe in creating concrete ways to involve the people in the first Suffolk district in the governing process.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #2: What is your position with regard to the South Boston St. Patrick's Day parade continuing to exclude LGBTQ groups from participating and are you willing to make a pledge not to participate and/or march in the parade until they are inclusive to LGBTQ groups?

Linda Dorcena Forry	Since elected State Representative in 2005, I have not participated in this parade due to its exclusionary policy regarding LGBT participants. I believe this does not represent the values of Boston nor the tradition of Irish hospitality (one hundred thousand welcomes). My husband is of proud Irish descent as are my children. It is unfortunate that, given the discrimination Irish people historically faced in America and in their own country under British rule, that the organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade are not welcoming to LGBT Americans. I have spoken out and urged parade organizers to welcome all into their parade and will continue to do so, and look forward to marching in a parade that, like the Irish constitution, cherishes all the children of the nation equally.
Nick Collins	Since I was 13 years old, marching with my youth hockey team, I have participated in the South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade is a celebration of Irish heritage and the history in Boston. Since elected State Representative, I have marched with friends, family and supporters - including members of the LGBTQ community. While I

	understand people's concerns about the parade, marching in the parade should not detract from my record of support for the LGBTQ community.
Maureen Dahill	The day my name was but on the ballot, I made a statement in the form of a press release urging the Allied War Veterans to make the parade inclusive and allow LGBTQ groups to march. As a lifelong South Boston resident, I believe the parade should reflect the wonderful and inclusive neighborhood South Boston is. I was very proud to attend my brothers wedding to his husband 5 years ago, I was proud to make that statement on March 1 st . I encouraged Nick Collins and Linda Dorcena Forry, as well as all the local South Boston politicians to join me. Linda immediately joined. Here is an article that appeared in Bay Windows that I'm very proud of: http://www.baywindows.com/Dahill-and-Dorcena-Forry-lead I did not march in the parade and I will not until it is inclusive.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #3: What actions would you take to ensure that all citizens have access to HIV/AIDS services & resources?

Linda Dorcena Forry	I have worked with advocates from AIDS Action Committee, MassEquality, Fenway Health and other groups to support full funding for HIV prevention and care in Massachusetts. This is especially important given the CDC's reduction in prevention funding for Massachusetts. It is unfortunate that we are being rewarded for our success in reducing new HIV infections over the past decade. We are the only state that has done this and it is part due to our robust health care and HIV care systems. But even as new infections overall have declined, they are increasing for black gay and bisexual men. Many gay men of all races and many straight men and women still struggle with substance use and mental health issues. These can increase vulnerability to HIV. I have also supported increased funding for these services. I have urged our Congressional delegation to stand firm and continue funding for the Ryan White Care Act, which we still need even as the Affordable Care Act becomes fully implemented starting in 2014. Under the Bush Cheney Administration funding for the Ryan White program remained flat, which means it declined in inflation adjusted terms by about 20%. During this time the Ryan White caseload increased by about 60%. Even though many of these clients will become eligible for Medicaid, we still need the essential enabling services that Ryan White funds, such as treatment adherence, legal services, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. Finally, we must end HIV-related stigma and anti-gay prejudice if we are going to continue to reduce new infections. This means working with schools and faith communities. I have also urged our public health departments to promote family acceptance of gay youth to reduce health disparities and reduce their vulnerability to HIV.
Nick Collins	I support the AIDS Action Committee's call for increased funding for programs and resources to people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS funding has diminished by nearly 40% over the past 13 years at a time when the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has risen dramatically. Every public health study shows that investing in services leads to a reduction in infection rates and health care cost savings.
Maureen Dahill	I believe everyone should have the right to any services and resources that will improve their quality of life. HIV/AIDS are two very important resources and services that should be available to all citizens no matter what their economic background is. I would advocate that these services be funded and available at health centers and

	hospitals. I would work to make sure that education about HIV/AIDS is also available. I also believe it is important to raise awareness in the communities about HIV/AIDS to help reduce the stigma and discrimination that is sometimes associated with it.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #4: What steps will you take to decrease violence and insure safety for all in Dorchester?

Linda Dorcena Forry	<p>It is essential that youth receive tolerance and anti-prejudice training in schools. Our new bullying statute is strong, but it needs resources for training of teachers and staff, and it must be evaluated. Bullying and harassment is unacceptable, whether it is racist or anti-Semitic harassment, anti-gay or -transgender harassment, or bullying because someone is overweight, has an accent, or is different in some other way. In addition to working with youth through schools and other social institutions such as youth centers, we must ensure that the police and other first responders are trained in how to sensitively handle anti-LGBT harassment incidents, including same-sex domestic violence. Finally, we must address the fundamental problem of high youth unemployment. This is not to justify in any way violence, but the reality is that when people are employed and economically self-sufficient they are less likely to engage in criminal activity. My leadership supporting small business development, the engine of job creation, is a long-term way to reduce violence in our communities.</p> <p>I am also the lead sponsor this session on the budget priority for “Safe and Successful Youth” (line item 4000-0005). This line item will provide \$10 million for targeted gang violence intervention strategies, from zero funding proposed. Boston was the biggest recipient of this competitive grant last year for a gang intervention program that assists youth who are at risk of being perpetrators or victims of violence. In Boston, this helps fund the multi-disciplinary work of the PACT program, which serves 230 clients and their siblings.</p>
Nick Collins	<p>I will continue what I have been doing since being elected as State Representative. I will fight for every possible resource to remove drugs, guns and gangs from our streets. The defining moment of my first term was a drug crisis in South Boston. That crisis, which included a string of murders, cast a spotlight on the deployment of a daytime drug unit in South Boston and Dorchester. By pushing the Boston Police Department, State Police, and DEA to create a strike force, we were able to get an enhanced, permanent daytime drug unit which has patrolled the streets of Boston since 2012, made more than 200 arrests, and has made our neighborhoods safer. Whether I am supporting the state Probation Department’s “Operation Movement” to increase visibility, and awareness of the department’s important public safety role or passing a bill to curb the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, my top priority will be to fight for resources to make the First Suffolk District a safer place to live.</p>
Maureen Dahill	<p>It takes the involvement and cooperation from law enforcement, the judicial system and the community to successfully combat neighborhood violence. I would try to make certain that these three groups were working together towards shared goals. We all have the right to live in a safe community.</p>
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #5: What actions would you take to ensure that attention is brought to LGBT victims of violence including domestic violence and what have you done to reduce violence against LGBT residents?

Linda Dorcena Forry	I have worked closely with the GLBTQ Domestic Violence Program to ensure state government support for their critical services and to educate police and other first responders about the unique needs and experiences of same-sex domestic partners.
Nick Collins	The recent reauthorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act, which for the first time included specific protections for LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence, provides a roadmap for efforts we need to undertake here in Massachusetts, including identifying and delivering resources for victim advocates and service programs, as well as increasing levels of training for law enforcement officials. The statistics surrounding partner sexual violence and victimization are sobering. I want all LGBT victims of domestic violence to have equitable access to government services and I will fight to ensure state policy for such services is all-inclusive. Victims of domestic violence are entitled to support services regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
Maureen Dahill	I would advocate for a campaign about LGBT violence and how to recognize the signs and how people can help victims of LGBT violence. I would also advocate for funding for training of physicians and nurses to be aware of the signs of abuse and how they can help the victim.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #6: As you may know, suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth. Approximately 40% of homeless youth are LGBT, and approximately 28% of gay & lesbians drop out of high school because of verbal and physical abuse. Given these startling statistics, what actions have you taken or will you take to address these important issues?

Linda Dorcena Forry	I am a strong supporter of the Mass. Commission on LGBT Youth and have worked closely with Sean Cahill, Arthur Lipkin and other members of that Commission to ensure that their excellent policy recommendations are implemented. For example, it's tragic that homeless LGBT youth feel safer on the streets than in homeless shelters. It's outrageous that some foster care workers try to "convert" gay youth to be straight. This should not be happening in 2013 in Massachusetts. I am proud that we have been a leader on gay youth issues, with the gay and lesbian student nondiscrimination law passed 20 years ago this year. We are one of the only states that gather data on LGB youth on our Youth Risk Behavior Survey. I have worked closely with DESE and DPH to understand these data and use them to improve policy. I have also urged that data on gender identity be gathered, which is starting this year. I think the solution is to implement the Youth Commission's recommendations and well as encourage parents to accept their LGBT children, as this is a resiliency factor that can help them remain at home and in school. We must also, as I mentioned earlier, fund the anti-bullying law and also provide more resources to the Commission so it can expand the excellent work promoting Gay Straight Alliances in schools led by Jeff Perroti.
Nick Collins	As State Representative, I have consistently supported initiatives to reduce violence in the LGBTQ community, in particular among teens and youth. I have supported the LGBT Youth Safe Amendment to H3400. This legislation would ensure funding for public schools to support the safety of LGBT students, and create suicide and violence prevention programming.
Maureen Dahill	These statistics are alarming and unsettling. I believe education is so important to combat abuse and it needs to start at school age. I would advocate in a campaign that

	would be similar to the anti-bullying campaigns that are currently happening in schools and community centers. I would also advocate for education for teachers, faculty and staff of high schools to be recognize the red flags of the issues facing our LGBT youth and teens.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #7: It is believed that there are anywhere between 1.6 to 3.2 million gay men and women who are 65 or older. Many of these LGBT elders are invisible to mainstream elder service providers and also invisible to the LGBT community as a whole. As a city councilor, what actions would you take to ensure that LGBT elders have access to elder services and resources?

Linda Dorcena Forry	<p>We have an amazing opportunity right now to take major steps forward on this issue. We have a President and a Governor who really get this issue. They appointed aging directors who really get it as well, both from the policy perspective and from the personal perspective, as they are both lesbians themselves: Kathy Greeley at the U.S. Administration on Aging and Ann Hartstein at the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs. I support the recommendation that the LGBT and HIV movements have been making for several years that the Older Americans Act be amended to list LGBT elders and HIV-positive elders as populations of "greatest social need." This is something Gay Men's Health Crisis, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, and other groups have been advocating. While Congress has not taken action, the U.S. AOA has encouraged states to take this step unilaterally. I supported efforts by the LGBT Aging Project in Jamaica Plain to urge Ann Hartstein to designate LGBT elders a population of greatest social need here in Massachusetts, and I commend Secretary Hartstein for taking this important step. This will mean resources for training, targeted services, and research to understand the needs and experiences of LGBT elders' vis-à-vis mainstream senior services. I am proud that we are one of only 5 states with congregate meal programs targeted toward LGBT elders. I support efforts to expand these and create congregate meal programs targeted toward LGBT elders who are people of color, and transgender elders. Another issue of concern is HIV and aging. Thanks to antiretroviral drugs that came about in 1996, very soon half of people living with HIV in the U.S. will be over 50. We must train elder service workers to treat HIV+ elders (half of whom are gay men), with respect and dignity. We must also ensure that home care aides are training to provide culturally competent and nondiscriminatory care. I have supported inclusion of LGBT and HIV issues in the new training curriculum being developed here in Massachusetts. We must ensure that we reduce social isolation for LGBT elders to ensure that they can age in place, in their homes and apartments. This means targeted and culturally competent services.</p>
Nick Collins	<p>As a State Representative, I was proud to co-sponsor a budget amendment in 2011 that expanded funding for elder home care programs, such as Boston Senior Home Care, to provide training and outreach for LGBTQ elders as part of a broader effort to meet the needs of aging members of the LGBTQ community. It was an honor to stand with Representative Malia to help provide resources for our LGBT seniors.</p> <p>I also support MassEquality and the LGBTQ Aging Project's effort to create an LGBTQ Elder Commission. In fact, I have co-sponsored an amendment in the upcoming FY2014 budget, which will create an LGBT Aging Commission to, "study the health, housing, financial, psycho-social and long-term care needs of older LGBT adults and their caregivers and to make recommendations to improve access to benefits and services." That is an important step toward achieving the broader goal of effective targeted outreach to LGBTQ elders. Too many elders in the community have fallen</p>

	through the cracks despite the Commonwealth's excellent elder care system. Elder LGBTQ residents deserve the same access to services, including assisted living and in-home health care as all other members of the community, so they can live independently as they age.
Maureen Dahill	I would work directly with the senior LBGT community to find out the issues they are having and the services that they need. I would advocate on their behalf to ensure that they have the services needed to live a quality life in their golden years.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #8: Massachusetts's education officials this month issued new guidelines regarding students and gender identity. Do you support these guidelines and what actions will you take to insure the transgender community is treated with dignity and respect?

Linda Dorcena Forry	We must comply with the new law. Massachusetts is the 16th state to adopt a gender identity nondiscrimination law. It is essential that transgender and gender nonconforming youth be able to focus on learning and their social development in schools and other social institutions, and not have to worry about harassment and social discrimination. I support the efforts of the Mass Commission on LGBT Youth to educate educators and administrators on the new guidelines. The safety of our children must be our number one concern. I support additional resources for the implementation of these guidelines as well as the anti-bullying guidelines. I also support data collection so we can better understand how transgender and gender nonconforming youth experience school and youth services in the Commonwealth.
Nick Collins	Yes. As different school districts enact specific policies for their respective communities, I will continue to monitor their effectiveness and call for appropriate changes to the guidelines that ensure that transgender students are treated dignity and respect.
Maureen Dahill	I think it is imperative that we support these new guidelines. I believe that all students have the right to a place where they feel comfortable and supported at school and that includes bathrooms and sports. I believe there should be training for school administrators, faculty, and counseling staff to help them work with students to address this sensitive topic and to foster an understanding of gender identity, and to create a school culture that respects all students and to ensure that the transgender community is treated with dignity.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

Question #9 What is your position with respect to DOMA?

Linda Dorcena Forry	It should be repealed. I agree with GLAD's case that federal nonrecognition of Massachusetts's same-sex marriages violates the equal protection of the law guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. I think the Supreme Court will agree in the Edie Windsor case and strike down DOMA. I am proud to come from the state that first legalized marriage equality, and was proud to defend this landmark court decision in the legislature against efforts by the anti-gay movement to repeal it.
Nick Collins	I support the repeal of DOMA. I am proud to have joined Representative Michlewitz as a co-sponsor of a bill (H2672)

	<p>to provide same-sex marriage tax benefits for LGBTQ couples in Massachusetts. This is crucial benefit that will help provide social and economic equality to the LGBTQ community.</p> <p>This piece of legislation would reimburse same-sex married couples who are current or retired state workers from the tax penalties imposed on them as a result of DOMA. Same-Sex couples who put their spouses on their employer-provided health insurance pay thousands of dollars more in taxes every year due to DOMA. This legislation aims at correcting this inequity. I look forward to helping ensure passage of the bill this legislative session.</p>
Maureen Dahill	I do not support DOMA. I believe in marriage equality. LGBT married couples should have the same rights as all married couples.
Joseph A. Ureneck	

<i>Question #10: If endorsed by DotOUT what would you do with our endorsement?</i>	
Linda Dorcena Forry	If I were endorsed by DotOUT I would be greatly honored and would share it proudly and widely. Thank you for considering me.
Nick Collins	If endorsed by DotOUT, I would promote the endorsement across the district via mail and local news outlets. Furthermore, I would use an endorsement by DotOUT to build a partnership with the broader LGBTQ community.
Maureen Dahill	I would wear it proudly as a badge of honor!
Joseph A. Ureneck	