

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission  
March 27, 2019 11:31 pm

**Name** Alexandra Chandler

**Address**

**Phone**

**Email**

**Citizenship Affirmation**

I am a U.S. Citizen

**Residency Affirmation**

I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Statement of Intent**

I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

**Statement of Interest**

My interest in the Commission is grounded in experience. As an openly transgender female Congressional candidate, I saw first-hand the challenges in our campaign finance system as well as the opportunity for our country if we reduce the power of money in our politics and unlock the full potential of ordinary people of diverse backgrounds to meaningfully participate in politics. I made taking on Big Money politics a cornerstone of our campaign, funded our campaign with small-dollar donations, and signed a "Candidate With A Contract" pledge, committing to introduce legislation to overturn Citizens United. When my campaign ended, I spoke to civic groups and media to raise funds and support for the Yes on 2 effort creating the Commission.

Now, I would be honored to offer the Commission my expertise in the hope I can help it serve as a pivotal step toward the transformation of our politics. Before I ran for Congress, I was an Intelligence Community analyst for 13 years, including a role where I oversaw the quality and integrity of intelligence analysis for thousands of personnel. If selected for the Commission, I will evaluate the testimony and information we collect and formulate recommendations enriched by both my analytic background and my law school education. I also want to enhance the Commission's impact by using my skills as a strategic communicator, educating the public how our findings and proposed Constitutional amendment can improve their government and their lives.

**Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/489299059/71887710\\_alexandra\\_chandler\\_citizens\\_commission\\_resume.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/489299059/71887710_alexandra_chandler_citizens_commission_resume.pdf)

Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
Clty or Town where you reside	HAVERHILL
Employment Status	Unemployed

# ALEXANDRA CHANDLER

## SUMMARY

Former barrier-breaking Congressional candidate and Intelligence Community leader using her analytic and communication skills, life experiences, and legal training to work as a citizen activist for democratic reforms to reduce the power of Big Money over our politics, and to elect more women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people and working class people of every background into office.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### ALEXANDRA CHANDLER FOR CONGRESS, Haverhill, MA: *Candidate for the U.S. House* 11/2017- 9/2018

- Ran in Massachusetts' 3rd District, became the first openly transgender Congressional candidate in Massachusetts history
- Engaged diverse communities and activist groups; attracted over 200 people for remote digital and in-district volunteer work
- Led a campaign propelled by small dollar donations (median \$27) with the result that our grassroots campaign spent \$29 for every vote received, compared to \$50-170 by competing leading campaigns
- Planned and executed communication strategy with staff and consultants, developed website and branding, drafted speeches and talking points, and secured positive earned media ranging from podcasts to the Boston Globe, NBC, NPR, and Newsweek
- Integrated community stakeholder feedback into comprehensive campaign platform and ongoing social media content, which garnered support and endorsements from voters, elected state and local officials, and national political organizations

### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE (OUSDI), Arlington, VA 7/2016- 10/2017

#### *Senior Intelligence Operations Specialist, Defense Analysis and Partner Engagement Directorate*

- Advised senior executives (equivalent to two star general and above) and formulated policy to improve the quality of analysis and defend it from politicization in a workforce of tens of thousands of civilian and military personnel in multiple agencies
- Identified opportunities for international and multi-agency intelligence collaboration against Russian influence campaigns in Europe and other transnational and emerging threats including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Modeled visibility and resilience in the face of Administration moves against LGBTQ equality; started OUSDI chapter of a LGBTQ employee group, worked to get permission to speak out as a transgender intelligence analyst for LGBTQ equality in the Washington Post, NPR, and other venues; advocated with the chain of command against the transgender military ban
- Coordinated initial intelligence response to multiple regional crisis events, recommended actions to the Office of the Secretary

### OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE (ONI), DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, Suitland, MD 5/2004- 6/2016

#### *Division Chief (2011- 16), Deputy Branch Chief (2008- 11), Fleet Support Coordinator (2007- 08), Analyst (2004- 07)*

- Managed personnel analyzing vulnerabilities in global supply chains of adversary WMD development programs; built a highly engaged organization recognized by Director of National Intelligence Clapper with a Meritorious Unit Citation for our impact
- Led numerous projects, including launching and scaling analytic teams, introducing new product lines, hosting international analytic conferences, and negotiating joint ventures with foreign partners resulting in actionable analysis
- Advised senior policymakers and coordinated 24/7 watch center support; revised diplomatic correspondence, and drafted and edited hundreds of reports ranging from interactive resources and cables to content for the President's Daily Brief
- Transitioned gender on the job in 2006, and assumed a leadership role in diversity and inclusion efforts across ONI

## ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

### VOTER CHOICE MASSACHUSETTS: *Advisory Board Member* 1/2019 - present

- Advocate for Ranked Choice Voting by leveraging experience in a 10 candidate race; evaluate and refine strategy, lobby officials

### BAY STATE STONEWALL DEMOCRATS: *Director, Communications Committee Member* 1/2019 - present

- Promote LGBTQ+ equality by identifying legislation and candidates to support; manage social media profiles, develop content

### MASSACHUSETTS TRANSGENDER POLITICAL COALITION (MTPC): *Steering Committee Member* 7/2018 - present

- Ensure alignment of management team to the mission of building transgender political power and advancing social justice for all
- Guided MTPC input to "Yes On 3" coalition to keep anti-discrimination protections; wrote op-eds, made numerous appearances

### TRUMAN NATIONAL SECURITY PROJECT: *Defense Council* 1/2017- present

- Advocate for principled foreign policy; won 2018 Communicator of the Year award, chosen among 1500 members in 16 chapters

### WHITMAN WALKER HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Washington, DC 2/2008- present

#### *Vice-Chair (2011-13), Secretary (2009-10), Director (2008-13), Leadership Circle Member (2013- present)*

- Provided governance and oversight for 15,000 patient community health center focused on LGBTQ+ health and HIV treatment
- Oversaw execution of \$26 million budget and evaluated Executive Director

## EDUCATION

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL, Brooklyn, NY (J.D., International Business Law fellowship) 9/1999- 6/2002

BROWN UNIVERSITY, Providence, RI (B.A. in International Relations, magna cum laude) 1/1997- 8/1999

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA (attended freshman year, transferred to Brown) 9/1995- 5/1996

## SELECTED ADVOCACY RELATED PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SAMPLES

**WHY I RUN: 35 PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES WHO ARE CHANGING POLITICS:** edited by Kate Childs Graham, my essay reflecting on my run for Congress is featured alongside essays by Stacey Abrams, Rep. Deb Haaland, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and others. <http://www.abramsbooks.com/whyirun/>

**BOSTON WOMEN'S MARCH, 1/19/2019:** spoke on the role of intersectional politics in advancing transgender equality and its potential in protecting democracy and furthering an inclusive social and economic policy agenda more broadly. video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh23KHY98vc>; news coverage: <https://www.wbur.org/news/2019/01/19/womens-march-boston>

**NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW RALLY, Lowell, MA, 11/8/2018:** spoke at a rapid response rally the day after Attorney General Sessions' resignation and contextualized the seriousness of the threat to democratic norms using my background as an intelligence analyst. [http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/ci\\_32261197/protesters-rally-lowell-support-mueller-investigation?fbclid=IwAR3E7av8eKMilKgC8IMIOYLjS3L6L1otguZSZNxitdSiJlnWSEQJPzHOqAA](http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/ci_32261197/protesters-rally-lowell-support-mueller-investigation?fbclid=IwAR3E7av8eKMilKgC8IMIOYLjS3L6L1otguZSZNxitdSiJlnWSEQJPzHOqAA)

**"VOTE FOR LIBERTY, VOTE FOR EQUALITY, VOTE YES ON 3", 11/4/2018, (CO-AUTHORED WITH U.S. REP. SETH MOULTON):** an opinion piece calling on Massachusetts voters to affirm anti-discrimination protections for transgender people in a referendum question on the November 2018 ballot. <https://medium.com/@sethmoulton/vote-for-liberty-vote-for-equality-vote-yes-on-3-e8f92bc8086c>

**LOWELL SUN (OP-ED) "WHAT I LEARNED IN NINE MONTHS OF RUNNING FOR U.S. CONGRESS", 9/16/2018:** an opinion piece in which I provide insights on running as a grassroots candidate in our current political process, highlighting the corrosive role of money in politics and the fundamental decency I often saw on the campaign trail. [http://www.lowellsun.com/editorials/ci\\_32141659/what-i-learned-nine-months-running-u-s](http://www.lowellsun.com/editorials/ci_32141659/what-i-learned-nine-months-running-u-s)

**INTERSECTIONAL LEADERSHIP PANELIST, OUT AND EQUAL EXECUTIVE FORUM, San Francisco, 3/30/2018:** I spoke to an audience of global C-suite executives about how I have leveraged my identities as a woman, a transgender person, and a mother in order to add value and diversity of thought in venues from the Intelligence Community to my community healthcare work.

**NPR ALL THINGS CONSIDERED "TRANSGENDER WOMAN RUNS FOR MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL SEAT", 12/8/2017:** I spoke with Mary Louise Kelly of All Things Considered about my candidacy for Congress, and my ongoing gratitude for my experiences working in the Intelligence Community. <https://www.npr.org/2017/12/08/569516038/transgender-woman-runs-for-massachusetts-congressional-seat>

**ALEXANDRA CHANDLER FOR CONGRESS CAMPAIGN WEBSITE, 11/2017-9/2018,** personally authored all campaign platform content, with a particular emphasis on an agenda to get Big Money out of politics. <https://www.alexandrachandler.com/issues>

**CLOSING KEYNOTE, DIVERSITY BEST PRACTICES NALC WEST CONGRESS, San Francisco, 9/8/2017:** I spoke with an audience of employee resource group leaders about how I as an individual contributor and manager leveraged diversity, including my own, to better communicate with intelligence consumers and to recruit and retain a highly engaged workforce.

**"IT GETS BETTER", 6/5/2017,** directed by Cheyenne Picardo, an autobiographical video to provide hope for LGBTQ+ youth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtXZMg89JXc>

**KEYNOTE PANELIST, WORKING MOTHER MEDIA, LEADERSHIP SUMMIT FOR WOMEN IN NATIONAL SECURITY, Washington, DC, 5/2017:** I talked with women leaders across national security agencies and affiliated contracting firms about my insights in leadership and communication from my experiences as an Office of Naval Intelligence analyst and manager.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, WEEKEND EDITION "LIFE AS A TRANSGENDER INTELLIGENCE ANALYST", 3/5/2017:** I spoke with NPR National Security Correspondent Mary Louise Kelly and argued for inclusion of transgender people and all minority groups into the Intelligence Community and all American institutions, and discussed the key role of authenticity in leadership. <https://www.npr.org/2017/03/05/518606180/life-as-a-transgender-intelligence-analyst>

**WASHINGTON POST (OP-ED) "I SERVE MY COUNTRY AS A TRANSGENDER WOMAN", 2/10/2017:** In this op-ed, I was the first currently serving U.S. Intelligence Community analyst to publicly come out as transgender, and used the opportunity to communicate the need for Americans to reject fear and hate in our civil society and politics, and the individual and collective benefits we achieve when we do so. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/i-serve-my-country-as-a-transgender-woman-i-know-we-can-overcome-our-divisions/2017/02/10/e8579f7c-ed55-11e6-9662-6eedf1627882\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/i-serve-my-country-as-a-transgender-woman-i-know-we-can-overcome-our-divisions/2017/02/10/e8579f7c-ed55-11e6-9662-6eedf1627882_story.html)