

## Ballot Questionnaire: Lauren Abrams, Nominating Committee Candidate

**Ballot Question 1: What makes you interested in this position? Why are you running for this office?**

After serving for 6 years as the director of a busy midwifery practice, I decided to move back into a clinical midwifery position, because I wanted to have time to be active in midwifery in other ways. I chose to seek a position on the nominating committee in particular because I want to take an active role in helping to make the ACNM board and leadership more diverse and inclusive. As a white Jewish woman, as the lesbian mother of 2 biracial sons, and as a white midwife who has spent my entire 26-year career caring for underserved communities and communities of color, I strive daily to work on my own racism and biases, and to understand and ameliorate the racism inherent in our society. I believe there are many midwives of color who are well-qualified to serve on our board, and whose presence as leaders would help ACNM become a more diverse and welcoming organization. As a member of the nominating committee, I would work hard to identify and solicit the participation of midwives of color and midwives from other underrepresented groups into leadership positions.

**Ballot Question 2: Visit ACNM's Strategic Plan [HERE](#). What part of the strategic plan embodies your personal philosophy?**

The following 2 core commitments of the strategic plan embody both my personal philosophy and the reasons I am seeking a position on the nominating committee: "Diversification and Inclusion: We seek to embrace diversity and inclusion in our profession and organization at every level to meet the needs of a diverse US population and so that all CNMs and CMs with diverse backgrounds and career choices feel welcome and able to contribute to the profession. Leadership Development: We seek to enhance midwifery leadership in ACNM, the United States, and globally. This means greater transparency to become a user-friendly organization where members can be actively involved and contribute their expertise, talents, and passions." I want very much to play a role in a process that improves the quality of our leadership by including midwives of all backgrounds. This would also help to attract new members by increasing the value of ACNM membership and improving our members' experience.

**Ballot Question 3: What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity and inclusion?**

In my 26 years as a midwife, I have participated in the midwifery community not only as a clinical provider, but also as an educator, leader, and member of organizations and committees at both the local and national levels. I have also attended many Annual Meetings and Midwifery Works conferences. Through these activities I have developed a wide network of midwives, midwifery educator, and midwifery leaders all over the country and from many different communities. I believe that those relationships would enable me to actively seek midwives to run for leadership roles within the organization, with a focus on midwives of color and other underrepresented groups. I also would like to develop workshops and other activities that would help a wider range of midwives become interested in leadership, and feel encouraged to participate more actively.

**Ballot Question 4: What innovation or improvement would you bring to ACNM?**

In my role as a member of the nominating committee, I would be interested in working to develop and expand existing mentorship programs, specifically for midwives of color and other underrepresented midwifery communities. I would also like to find ways to use the latest technology and social media to increase members' participation in activities such as committee work and voting.