

## Zoe Gutterman Ballot Question Responses

Ballot Question 1: What makes you qualified for this position? Why are you interested in this position?

Through my background holding a number of positions at ACNM at both a local and national level, I believe I am qualified for this position because I have interacted extensively with board members and have seen the qualities that are required for leadership. I recognize the importance of uplifting and electing ACNM members to positions who will bring a diversity of lived experience to the position and will help move ACNM forward.

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

Since I was a student midwife, I have benefited greatly from the ability to interact with ACNM at both a local and national level. It is the individual midwife experience, the service recovery/member experience, that I believe is what draws people to ACNM. As ACNM is at a crossroad, it is more important than ever for ACNM to be led by midwives who are invested in growing and reshaping "service recovery/member experience." Who see the benefit of engaging directly with individuals and providing them the support and resources to grow. We need to reinvest in supporting state affiliates and fostering new young leaders.

Ballot Question 3: Visit the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) [HERE](#). What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

Centering DEIB is the central work of the nominating committee. We need to uplift leaders in ACNM from diverse backgrounds who represent all those in the college. As the Chair of the DC Affiliate, I led an Anti-Racism initiative where we took a hard look at our affiliate. Some of the changes we made because of this were hiring an anti-racism consultant to overhaul Affiliate governing documents from an DEI perspective.

Ballot Question 4: What is your vision for innovation and improvement within ACNM?

I believe that it is time for ACNM to meet the next generation of midwives where they are at. We need to be engaging across platforms and communities. We need to be present in midwifery education programs, at affiliates, but also out in the public. ACNM serves midwives and we need to make sure that whether a midwife is a member or not, they see and hear from us.

Ballot Question 5: What are two improvements that ACNM should prioritize and how would you help address them in your role?

First, ACNM should be listening to more students and new midwives. Allowing students to vote needs to be just the first step. We should be creating open spaces for them to engage, whether virtually or in person. In my role, I want to nominate those who see creative way to reach out to these new midwives.

Second, ACNM should be re-imagining its conference, making it an attractive engagement point for midwives. Midwives are looking not just for CMEs, but for deeper connections including career networking, innovative technology, and support organizing to change within their communities.