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Jon D. Barnett, an activist in gay rights and other issues, is running for the Kansas City Council's 2nd District at-large seat. Barnett, 34, said he will advocate city legislation and policies that protect the rights of gays, particularly people who have contracted the virus that causes AIDS.

Barnett said Kansas City should address the AIDS issue on four fronts: education about how to prevent AIDS; anonymous testing and counseling; health care for those with the disease; and protection from discrimination.

Barnett said his other priorities would be recycling and waste management, campaign spending limits, and a light-rail transit system.

Running for City Council as a homosexual, Barnett said his candidacy will be "a barometer of what kind of city Kansas City is." "Is it a city that progresses and looks forward or is it a city of bigotry?" Barnett said, adding that he thinks the first definition will emerge.

Barnett is a co-founder of ACT-UP, a gay-rights group that held several demonstrations last year at City Hall. Barnett said he no longer is active in the group but supports its goals.

Barnett, who lives north of Hyde Park, said he moved to Kansas City about 10 years ago. He is owner of Double TT Remodelers, a construction business, he said.