

WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax (773-871-7609), regular mail (Windy City Times, c/o Andrew Davis, 5315 N. Clark, #192, Chicago, Ill., 60640) or e-mail ([Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)). Feel free to call 773-871-7610, ext. 201, if questions arise.

**DEADLINE: Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, by 5 p.m. LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please feel free to use additional paper as needed.

YOUR NAME: Maureen Sullivan INCUMBENT? YES/  
NO ----No

OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman-11th Ward WARD (if appropriate):  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination? Yes
  
- 2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues?  
Yes
  
- 3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?  
Yes
  
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law? I believe in a woman's right to choose
  
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education? I believe it needs to be fully funded and programs need to be rolled out across CPS and encouraged in private schools and other educational organizations.
  
- 6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)?  
Yes
  
- 7) Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increases penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked? Yes
  
- 8) Do you believe that LGBT individuals should become foster parents if they are qualified? Yes
  
- 9) Do you believe that LGBT individuals have the right to adopt children if they are qualified?          Yes

10) Would you keep committees around such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues? Yes

11) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students, much like the Harvey Milk School in New York City? Yes, I went to an all girls' high school and I found without added distractions and no bullying I was able to blossom. I was bullied in grammar school mercilessly for being chubby. That changed in high school and I became more comfortable in my own skin.

12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?  
Yes

13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?  
Yes

14) Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?  
Yes

15) What would you recommend to have a better relationship between police and the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?  
Yes

16) If you are an incumbent, did you vote for the recent increase in the city's minimum wage and, if a challenger, would you have? Also, what do you think is the ideal minimum wage for the city of Chicago? Yes. I am actually a proponent of the \$15 minimum wage.

17) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods? I believe that the reintroduction of more beat police would help bolster mutual respect between the police and our citizenry especially in communities where that is not the case now. Without mutual respect and strong one on one relationships we will not move forward.

18) What do you feel is the biggest financial problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem?  
Sustainable business development aided by vocational training, technology programs and job programs for our youth and under-employed.

19) Some studies show that 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT. What would you do to provide more resources for prevention, education and services for the entire homeless youth population? I would work to increase awareness and funding for this extremely

serious issue. I'd work with local schools to make sure this group of students have the support and special attention they need.

20) New York City eliminated barriers to transgender people changing their birth certificates. They just need a letter from a doctor to do so. Would you support this for Chicago? \_ Yes.

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21) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—openly LGBT? \_ My Deputy Field Manager and 6 dedicated volunteers are members of the LGBT community. I work closely with the Bridgeport Pride group (that was co-founded by my Deputy Field Manager and her sister) on awareness and local issues surrounding the growing LGBT community in Chicago, especially on the near South Side. \_\_\_\_\_

22) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.  
\_ See above. My 30+ year friend is on the board for the Center On Halsted and About Face Theater. I have been to many events to support both organizations. My uncle and cousin and both gay men. My first apartment was at 3522 N Broadway from 1986-1989. I made (and sadly lost) many friends and enjoyed going to the original Howard Brown on Broadway. I was in an ally focus group for the "Out In Chicago" exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society. I was particularly focused on highlighting the influence that the gay club scene had on the near South Side in the 1940s and 50 and the Punk scene of the late 1970s i Chicago. \_\_ I have a good friend who has gone through gender reassignment surgery. \_\_\_\_\_

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23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today? \_\_ Homeless and emotionally abandoned youth and young adults. Lack of resources surrounding depression, anxiety and suicide for young gay adults. \_\_\_\_\_

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