

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). 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: Roberto Maldonado INCUMBENT? YES/NO Yes
OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 26th Ward

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?

I have a record of supporting funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education.

4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?

I support the current law and women's choice.

5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?

I have supported funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education in the past and will continue to do so.

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 LGBTs should become foster parents if they are qualified? Yes

9) Do you believe LGBTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified? Yes

10) Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT 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?

I have a proven record of supporting diverse educational opportunities and would be open to learning more about this type of school.

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

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

I believe the history of all people is important. As with all education-related matters, I would like to see a CPS evaluation/recommendation on how this fits into the curriculum.

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?

Dialogue and open lines of communication are the best ways to create better relationships between the police and all people and communities.

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?

I not only supported the city's minimum wage increase, I was a co-sponsor of this ordinance.

17) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods?

Creating dialogue and open lines of communication between the police and communities is essential to curbing crime. An adequate police presence is also vital.

18) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem?

Public Safety, Education, and Economic Development and Job Creation are priorities in the ward. My staff and I work diligently on a daily basis to address these issues and create a better 26th Ward.

19) Some studies show that 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBTQ. What would you do to provide more resources for prevention, education and services for the entire homeless youth population?

I have advocated for LGBT housing in the past and will continue to fight for increased public and private resources to help eliminate homelessness for all people.

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

21) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—openly LGBT? Not that I am aware of.

22) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.

As the alderman of a diverse ward, I routinely address the concerns of all constituents including the LGBT community. I have advocated for LGBT housing, marched in the Annual Pride Parade in support of the LGBT community, and will continue to support LGBT equality.

23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today?

I think equality is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today.
