

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). 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: Stacey Pfingsten INCUMBENT? YES/**NO**
OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 2nd 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? **I will recruit area organizations to do LGBT training for all my staff and volunteers when in office.**
- 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 plan to partner with Lurie Childrens' Hospital and other area hospitals for health fairs throughout the ward, and will focus on HIV/AIDS especially. I will invite leading organizations to provide materials on HIV/AIDS and to partner with area schools to provide educational programming.**
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law? **I am pro-choice. The law should protect a women's right to choose and access to care in consultation with her doctor.**
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education? **Funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education has to be a priority. Education is excellent prevention, and we have to treat sufferers with all the resources we have available.**
- 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? **Absolutely, 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 support schools that has the same principles as the Harvey Milk School. I hope that all of our schools can be safe spaces with excellent programming for LGBT students, but I know and understand the importance of dedicated institutions.**

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? **As the liaison between the 18th district and the 2nd ward office, I have a lot of experience with the Chicago Police Department. I believe our officers need training, but also we need more community programming and events like CAPS meetings that bring communities and the police together to foster understanding.**

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 will continue to fight for \$15 an hour minimum wage. I believe that by the time the \$13 an hour wage goes into effect, it will already be outdated.

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

We need more police officers on the street, but also need to train those officers correctly. We need more officers of color. The police department needs more funding for adequate training and for more boots on the ground.

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

We have a lot of infrastructure issues and the menu dollars only stretch so far. I will seek creative means to get problems solved, including using area students to do things like paint fire hydrants – things that don't require a crew to do. I am also reaching out to area universities to get graduate students to do studies on the ward and find creative solutions.

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?

The homeless population is very important to me. As Alderman, I will partner with local organizations, such as the Chicago Help Initiative to expand services, and get more federal, state and city dollars. It should not be a crime to help a homeless student – we need to remove the stigma against homeless youth and adults and give them more opportunities to get education and get back on their feet. I will advocate for reopening the mental health clinics, which would help many people on the street get the help 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. Individuals should be able to determine their own identity.**

21) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—openly LGBT? **Not at this time, though we have LGBT volunteers. We are always actively seeking to diversify our staff, which has great racial diversity.**

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

I am very in tuned to the issues due to having many close friends in the community, and I have attended several Equality Illinois events.

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

I believe that lawmakers have to make stronger stances in favor of all of the LGBT community. The government has a responsibility to ensure equality for all; LGBT groups should not be an exception to the rule.