

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax (-173-871-7609). 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: **Elise Doody-Jones**

INCUMBENT? **No.**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Ward 32 Alderman**

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?

Yes I would implement a written policy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT related issues?

Yes, I would encourage sensitivity training.

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, I would take steps to further HIV/AIDS education. I would encourage education in our public schools.

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

It should be safe and legal.

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

I support funding HIV/AIDS treatment and education.

6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)?

Yes, I favor marriage equality.

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, if people are qualified to foster children they should.

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

Yes, if adults qualify to adopt they should.

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?

As a parent of a public school student in a very open and caring neighborhood school where LGBT students are welcome, with several same-gender parents, I find it to be

terribly unfortunate that we cannot foster a caring and safe environment for all students in all of our public schools. Ideally, I'd prefer to see all neighborhood schools be open and bully-free zones for all students without the need of a special schools for LGBT students but if an Advisory Council on LGBT Issues recommended that there was a need in this day and age for a Harvey Milk School I would consider it.

l2) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?

I believe that anti-bully policies/training are already required in CPS. My own child's school has implemented anti-bully policy for many years that I am aware of and we have a few possible trans-gender students at the elementary school level.

l3) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Possibly, I would have to know more about what this looks like.

l4) Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Possibly. We need first move away from the harmful abstinence only teaching that so many of our schools teach and move to a comprehensive sex education curriculum that teaches a broad spectrum of information to keep our society healthy.

l5) What would you recommend to have a better relationship between police and the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?

Sensitivity training and more community based policing techniques. Police serve the community better when they are a part of it.

l6) 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?

As a small business owner I paid my employee above what is considered a living wage in Chicago. There were times in which this was a burden on my small operation. Yes, I would have voted for raising the minimum wage with a gradual increase. The wages from a forty-hour workweek should allow workers to at the very least pay rent and bills.

l7) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods?

Jobs and a healthy economy are the best crime prevention.

l8) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem?

Services are lacking. I plan to hire customer service oriented office staff to better serve the community.

l9) 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?

Unfortunately, many LGBTQ youth end up homeless due to a lack of understanding from family. Shelters and emotional/mental health support needs to be provided to help these youth get back to a productive life. Shelters for youth need to be supported by public, non-profit and private partnerships.

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. New York has set a positive precedent for this.

21) Are any members of your current staff-either campaign or general office personnel-openly LGBT?

I don't yet have any full-time campaign staffers working directly on my campaign, but I employ a political consulting firm that does fundraising, strategy and management. I have not asked about the sexual orientation of their staff, but I am aware of at least one openly LGBT employee at their firm. In the past I owned a small business with an (eventually) openly LGBT woman.

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

-As a childcare provider I have found a few parents who were not as open to their children being allowed to dress in the wide variety of dresses to firefighter outfits we provided the children to select in their play. We insisted that children be allowed to explore all roles with dress up clothing without rules of adults. One child was clearly transgender, and we were very thankful that she was in our care and could get unbiased support at an early age.

-My business partner "came out" while we were in business together. She feared I wouldn't want to be in business with her any longer. I just chuckled and told her that I was glad she figured it out. We continued to be friends and business partners.

-In college I attended a Pride Demonstration in Washington D.C. My stepfather disagreed with this action and refused to support my college tuition. It was my last semester of college due to my attending the event.

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

The biggest problems facing the LGBT community today are a lack of understanding, and biases members of the community face.