

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: Scott Wagnerspack INCUMBENT? YES/NO () NO
OFFICE SOUGHT: 32nd Ward WARD (if appropriate): 32
Alderman

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination? We've followed all city code + have discussions

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues? Have done this in my 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? Yes, I support diff organizations

4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?
I'm no-choice

5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
I think we should offer it as part of civic education and health classes in high schools.

6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)? Yes, I always have

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, and my friends have done so.

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 think it is a nice idea, but prefer to see an integrated school where all students learn about LGBT students and share experiences of learning w/ them.

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? Yes.

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

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

More training for Chicago police officers

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 was pushing for \$15/hr. but was fine with the \$13 compromise

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

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

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 support groups like National Safeline and organization that assist homeless kids

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? Yes.

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

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

more training of different types for officers would be training in the area of diversity and community relations. Diversity training, crisis intervention training and other forms of interactive training on a regular basis would help alleviate many issues and prevent others.

I think the most important thing is to hire enough police officers to handle the day to day issues of citizen safety and quality of life issues but at the same time we need to readjust where officers are working and how. Making sure we have enough officers who can quickly respond to volatile situations in neighborhoods where they are needed is something that we have a hard time doing. Having enough officers on regular beats as well is important to handle the volume of calls we see daily. Most importantly, though is creating business and jobs in areas that have been abandoned and floundered for decades. There has to be leadership in this City that focuses on business development in poor and blighted areas. Too much development and TIF funding goes to downtown developments that create jobs, but do not create jobs that your average person who does not have a masters in business or is a banker can get. A skilled workforce with jobs that fit a larger population than we have now is necessary to get our local economy back on track.

I think the biggest problem is still the ability for parents to send their children from great public elementary schools directly into great public high schools. The battle for kids to get into selective enrollment is disheartening to see and parents should not be forced to move out of the City because their options are severely limited. We don't do enough to provide resources and consistent, year to year support to get our high schools on a higher playing field.

I've had some interesting personal experiences over the years that seem to be normal to my family and friends, and maybe not so normal to others. My brother and his partner are gay. I have several friends who are gay and who have adopted children. I was kicked out of my church for supporting the idea of gay marriage in 2007, yet I never felt that it stopped me from believing or that it would change my personal beliefs and open political opinions. I've supported groups like HRW and Equality Illinois because I believe their policy positions are right for our state and country.

I think one of the biggest ones is making sure that families that adopt children are well supported by different organizations and that those families are accepted as well as any other family. Sometimes that support network seems strained to some of the parents.

Scott Waguespack
City Council Member
1st Ward

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32nd Ward