

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, IL, 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: **Carlos Ramirez-Rosa** INCUMBENT? NO  
OFFICE SOUGHT: **35<sup>th</sup> 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, all workplaces should be open and affirming with written policies in place to protect their guests and employees.**
- 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? **My partner is a PrEP coordinator with Howard Brown Health Center. I would like to see the City of Chicago expand access to PrEP and build upon existing HIV/AIDS education programs.**
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law? **I am in full support of a woman's right to make her own decisions in regards to her own body.**
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education? **I support funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education and would work to find sites in my ward to hold such programs.**
- 6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)? **I wholeheartedly support marriage equality and its expansion to every state in our union.**
- 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? **Absolutely**
- 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? **I am in support of providing safe spaces for LGBTQ students and am looking forward to working with the parents/legal guardians of the students to ensure the safe spaces are protected.**

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? **I would recommend the City of Chicago install more diversity training to our police force.**

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 would have voted for an increase to the minimum wage and I support a immediate increase to \$15 an hour for employees at corporations grossing over \$50 million a year.**

17) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods? **I believe in hiring more police officers, after school gang prevention programs, and restorative justice and summer youth programs.**

18) What do you feel is the biggest financial problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem? **I believe our ward is facing a lack of resources to improve our rastructure, repave roads and sidewalks, and provie quality city services. I will fight corporate handouts and work to reform our TIF system to ensure our city's money goes to community needs, not big corporations.**

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 will work with local groups to help open spaces for homeless LGBTQ youth in my ward.**

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, my partner and I are an openly gay couple.**

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

**As an openly gay leader at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I sponsored and successfully led a coalition to get \$50,000 a year in funding for LGBT programs.**

23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today? **Of the homeless youth in our country today 40% of them identify themselves as LGBTQ; either being kicked out by their families or forced out due to verbal and/or physical abuse. Our LGBT community must ensure that we are providing these youth with resources and support they need. I will work to ensure that Chicago's LGBT community and City Hall is supporting all members of our LGBT family.**