

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: Alonso Zaragoza INCUMBENT? YES/NO NO
OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 36th

- 1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination? Yes I will.
- 2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues? My staff would go through sensitivity training for LGBT-related issues.
- 3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures? See page 3. #3.
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?
See page 3. #4.
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
See page 3. #5.
- 6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)? Yes. See page 3, #6.
- 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 I do.
- 8) Do you believe LGBTs should become foster parents if they are qualified? Yes I do.
- 9) Do you believe LGBTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified? Yes I do.
- 10) Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues? Yes I would.
- 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 would be supportive of such a school but we must make sure that ALL of our schools are open, safe, and supportive of ALL students.
- 12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?
Yes I would, for both students and staff.
- 13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school? Yes i would.

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

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?

See page 3, #15.

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 the minimum wage increase. The ideal minimum wage should be above \$13 an hour.

17) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods? See page 4, #17.

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

See page 4, #18.

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 find funding to reopen the closed mental health centers.

We also need to open a homeless shelter on the NW side, as there are none currently.

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? I would.

21) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—openly LGBT? Yes, I have openly LGBT campaign staff assisting my candidacy.

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

I have been actively involved in the marriage equality battle, helped organize rallies with undocumented LGBT youth, and have supported other LGBT issues through the IVI-IPO, an organization that I have been involved with since my teenage years.

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

See page 4, #23.

3. I will find money in the budget to reopen the CDPH sites that were closed and strengthen funding for their HIV/STI awareness programs. I am in favor of fully funding education and treatment and programs concerning HIV/AIDS and believe that awareness of HIV/AIDS should be encouraged early in schools, as part of comprehensive sex and health education programming. I also am in favor of providing funding to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and testing in high-risk communities, including communities of color.

4. I am pro-choice. I believe that the decision to have an abortion must be an extremely difficult one to make. As a man, I do not see myself as being in a position to tell a woman what she must do with her own body. We should support a woman who makes this decision and respect her choice to make it. I believe that women needing abortion services should have access to safe and affordable medical services.

5. HIV, AIDS, and STI awareness is important, especially in minority and low income communities. I will find money in the budget to reopen the CDPH sites that were closed and strengthen funding for their HIV/STI awareness programs. I am in favor of fully funding education and treatment and programs concerning HIV/AIDS and believe that awareness of HIV/AIDS should be encouraged early in schools, as part of comprehensive sex and health education programming. I also am in favor of providing funding to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and testing in high-risk communities, including communities of color.

6. Yes, I am in favor of marriage equality. I believe that marriage should be between two people who love each other. I was the only candidate in this race to actively lobby for Marriage Equality and helped convince my own State Representative to vote in favor of the bill last year. Below is a link to a MoveOn.org petition that I created to help move our State Rep to vote the right way.

<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/state-representative>

15. To have a better relationship between police and the citizens which they serve, we need to build trust between both communities. Police departments should actively and publicly work to prevent misconduct within the police department, properly address misconduct if it occurs, and continue to build and maintain community trust and confidence between police organizations and the communities that they serve. We should also have a more transparent Internal Affairs process to build trust. A more diverse police force would increase trust also. We need to see an increase in the recruitment and hiring of individuals who have a service orientation and good character necessary to uphold high standards of integrity, as well as officers that reflect the communities in which they serve. We also need to see an increase in community oriented policing. Convening monthly meetings with community members, Increase bicycle and foot patrols on community streets, and directly engaging specific sectors of the community, such as schools, minority communities (particularly those who feel disenfranchised), and faith-based organizations.

Another way to foster community trust is through citizen police academies. Citizen police academies enable residents to learn about their local law enforcement agency's culture and core values and the overall operations of a department. If the community was allowed to see how the police department functions, through tours of the precinct, perhaps the community will be more understanding of the difficulties that a police officer encounters on a daily basis.

17. To combat inequities of police service in my ward and the high crime rate, I will advocate for the hiring of additional police officers for my ward. I will also propose the hiring of retired police officers (at a negotiated hourly rate) to perform routine administrative work within our districts, so that our patrolman can get out of the police stations and into the neighborhoods where they can do the most good. We also need to strengthen the C.A.P.S. program and return to monthly meeting schedules. In addition to strengthening the

police force, we need to provide more opportunities and activities for young people, especially in communities of color. We can't just arrest our way to safer streets.

18. The biggest problem in our ward that I can immediately deal with is the lack of City services. We can't attract business and jobs to our Ward If basic City services are lacking. Services that need improvement in our ward are tree trimming and tree replacement delays, street repairs and light bulb replacement, graffiti removal, among others. My staff will conduct street based surveys and report all of the service needs on a daily basis. We won't wait for a constituent to report a broken street light. My aldermanic staff will go out every day to find the problems so that we can get them fixed as quickly as possible.

23. There is no thing as a single-issue problem because people do not live single-issue lives. If I had to choose one problem that is affecting the LGBT community today, I would say that it is LGBT youth homelessness. 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT. Many of those children were kicked out of their families and homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and many have reported being survivors of abuse from their families. These experiences leave these young people particularly vulnerable to mental and physical health issues, and lead to unfair criminalization. This is a problem that is solvable If more attention and funding was paid to it.