

Windy City Times Candidate Questionnaire

Aldermanic races

Name: Robert Murphy Incumbent: NO
Office Sought: 39th Ward Alderman

1. Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender discrimination? YES.
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? YES.
4. What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law? I believe abortion should be safe, legal and rare.
5. What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education? That is a health issue for everyone, not just one part of the populace, and it needs to be taught to and supported by all.
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 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.
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 am open to the idea, but hope that the better natures of our youth today mean that their LGBTQ peers will feel accepted wherever they go to school.
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.
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 citizens they serve, including people of gender and the transgender community? The Chicago Police Force needs to better represent the populace it serves and protects, and a lot of it's outreach, both in and out of uniform has gone a long way toward making the force more responsive. Where it is not, I support retraining.
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 recent minimum wage increase, but felt it didn't go far enough, fast enough. I support a living wage.
17. How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods? I am a strong supporter of Community Policing, and believe more outreach and more effort needs to be extended in neighborhoods that feel disconnected from the police.
18. What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem? Lack of service and connection of government to its citizens, and lack of small business development. My whole campaign has been about how to reach out to all the citizens of my ward, including through their neighborhood organizations, social media, direct door-to-door contact, and promotion of neighborhood small businesses when I do. As Alderman, my reach will be much greater, and I'm looking for your support to do so.
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 think this is a core city issue, and I support increased city assistance to the non-profits who do great work and outright city provided services where there isn't non-profit coverage.
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, several, including our volunteer coordinator.
22. Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues. I grew up in an atmosphere where any and all were accepted, including the progressive school my mother created and ran in the 1970's, where we had openly gay teachers, and where my first girlfriend's father was out, and later passed away from AIDS. I've carried this upbringing with me as I've married and became a father, and sought to teach my daughter and others I have influence over that these are all human rights that we should all have access to.
23. What do you feel is the biggest problem facing LGBT community today? Youth homelessness. I think that large more-welcoming urban areas are magnets for alienated or LGBTQ youth who have been forced out of their homes, and it is incumbent upon the City AND the community to provide safe shelter and service to help them transition to stable home environments.