

WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Dianne Daleiden, 40th Ward Aldermanic Challenger

DIANNE DALEIDEN CHALLENGER

Office sought: Alderman WARD: 40

1. Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identify discrimination? YES, definitely.
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 step to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?

HIV/AIDS prevention education and treatment, including long-term care, would be a top priority in my administration. I am particularly concerned about higher new infection rates among youth. Schools need to pursue a more inclusive gender-inclusive HIV/AIDS education program.

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

I fully support the original law, Roe v. Wade. I am concerned however by the erosion of some reproductive rights, particularly as it concerns access to women of all ages.

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

My first profession and degree was in social work. Adequate funding is where the discussion starts to set goals to reduce new infections and care for those afflicted. I would use my influence to pry open funding coffers.

6. Do you favor marriage equality? YES.

7. Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increase penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked? Absolutely. I am abhorred by discrimination in all of its forms.

8. Do you believe LGBTs should become foster parents if they are qualified? Yes, of course.

9. Do you believe LBGTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified? Yes, of course.

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10. Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on LGBT issues?

Yes, and expand its outreach to my ward and the city.

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 National Board Certified teacher for Chicago Public Schools, I support all efforts to create positive, safe, nurturing schools for all LGBTQ youth and their families. When a similar school was proposed about 4 or 5 years ago, it made me recommit to ensuring a safe space for my LGBTQ every day.

12. Would you advocate for mandatory and anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?

Safer school for all children would be a priority in my administration. As a teacher turned alderman and mother, I will not squander the opportunity to educate my colleagues on creating more humane school environments.

13. Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school? Yes, but I maintain that such history education can start in Kindergarten.

14. Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school? YES. CPS's pilot program is quite good from all reports. I hope it expands.

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?

The police should be required to attend trainings by members of communities of color and the LGBTQ community to build empathy for all of Chicago's residents. Also, we need to end the regular practice of using overtime to balance the police budget. We need effective, well-rested police, not minimal cost savings.

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 think what passed, \$13 by 2019, was too little too late. I support \$15 now for companies grossing \$50 million or more, and a graduated increase to allow smaller businesses adjust while remaining profitable. However, a few years, not 4

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

Simply put, fight poverty. The crime rate is based on the economic disempowerment of communities. Additionally, by training police to focus on equitable policing, we could create a climate of trust where residents feel comfortable turning to the police when in need. I support full staffing (and training) of our police so that they can be well-rested and effective. The policy of budget-motivated overtime should end.

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

The lack of civic leadership. I wasn't surprised when "government leadership" recently topped Americans' concerns in a Gallup Poll. Too many neighbors, friends and even family are resigned nationally and particularly here in Chicago to rampant corruption.

I am fighting tooth and nail to give working families – and singles -- a fair shake. I will fight privatization schemes that nickel-and-dime us to death while lowering the quality of city services and outsourcing jobs. I will try to build a model of participatory governance, where residents and experts come up with solutions to problems they deal with everyday.

19. Some studies show that 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ. What would you do to provide more resources for prevention, education and services for the entire homeless youth population?

As a Chicago Public Schools teacher, I know the schools can and should play a critical role in affirming and supporting youth both on issues of sexual identity and on family stability. I would advocate that the CPS homeless coordinator role be expanded to focus increasingly on service delivery. I am heartened by colleagues' reports on the current gender-positive sexual education curriculum that is being successfully piloted in CPS and would advocate for its wider adoption.

At a citywide level, I think we need to go beyond responding to homelessness in a reactive manner. We need to plan each year to accommodate 100% of housing need at all times. One place to start would be increased funding for organizations like Project Fierce so that those who are already addressing these issues effectively can reach more young people.

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, as are many teacher colleagues and friends.

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

As a woman, mother, former social worker and now public school teacher I have been involved with insuring human rights and equality for all people. My personal activism started in the 1970s with the student union movement to guarantee LGBT organizations access to simply open offices on campus. It seems like so long ago, and I am heartened by the strides the community has made over the decades.

Today I am a CPS teacher who is fully aware that I am a mentor. My commitment to provide each and every child with the most positive, non-judgmental experience in the classroom and the hallways. More personally, many of my middle school students simply need an adult they can trust to talk about their personal gender identities and I am glad they often choose me. Affirming all children and providing a safe space for all is what I do.

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

I could not possibly identify one without consulting many ward-level and city-wide LGBT experts. I plan to avail myself of community experts to advise me in many issues areas, LGBT included. I think of it as participatory governance because residents have the best solutions.