

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: Denice Davis INCUMBENT? YES/NO no
OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 46th

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination? yes

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues? Absolutely

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?

Please See Attached

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

Please See Attached

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? Absolutely

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?

Please See Attached

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 the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?

Please See Attached

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?

N/A

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

Please See Attached

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

We need Balanced development, We must bring back our city and social services that have been cut drastically.

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?

First of All if you don't have housing you don't have stability. We first have to address the issue of homelessness.

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?

discrimination- Not enough Services- Choices and Resources

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

I firmly believe that it is an individual choice period. Literally

5) What is your positions regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?

Obviously, we have come a long way but we still have a long way to go. Just the fact that there continue to be high numbers of new cases in the African American and Latino communities it's very clear we are not doing enough. We need to allocate additional funding for research for a cure. More pressing, we need bring back health in the classrooms, to educate on safe sex and abstinence. I think most importantly we need to make sure, when men and women enter the penal system they are tested for HIV/AIDS and definitely upon release. Statics have shown that most of the new cases are women whose husbands and or boyfriends were just released from prisons. The prison systems have a role to play in this as well.

11) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students much like Harvey Milk School in New York City?

I think that should be up to LGBT students, part of the problem to me is that we don't include young people in the decision making process that directly affects them whether they are straight or LGBT.

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?

There has to be choices and resources for our young people, that's number one. There must be sensitivity training within the police department. The way the police academy is run is like a military style operation, not community minded. There was a program started in the mid to late 90's where police officers were offered incentives to move (live) in the communities they served. I thought then and now that was a good start. I will foster close communication with the local commanders and build relationships with the community and building managers that is a crucial role in my community. The CAPPs program has to be revamped. In 46th some residents tend to single out certain groups and classes of people polarizing them. That is not how CAPPs is suppose to work. My office will facilitate better overall community/police relationships.

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

This answer is not an easy quick fix answer. I believe that the current options presented in this discussion such as police, hiring more police and mandatory minimums will confront the issue of crime but in most cases feed a dangerous cycle and fertilize a breeding ground for future criminals.

The fathers and mothers who will be incarcerated by the mandatory minimums will leave children who in most cases will inadvertently inherit the vicious cycle of incarceration or criminal activity. It is part of my agenda to look at social contributions. Working diligently with our state representatives to interact with, but not limited to residential facilities and foster care. Additionally, it is our duty to secure funding for school counselors to recommence the role as advisors to our youth. Truant officers once again should be part of the norm. I will encourage networking teams of professional, social services agencies, and clergy to assist youth and troubled families. It Takes a Village.