

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax (-173-871-7609). 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:** Joe Moore

**INCUMBENT?** YES

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Alderman, 49<sup>th</sup> Ward

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

Though I do not have a written policy, my track record over my 24 years as alderman has been one of inclusion and non-discrimination. It's never been an issue in my office. I always have had a diverse office staff that is reflective of my very diverse community. Though I do not currently have an openly gay staff member working in my ward service office, my campaign manager is an openly gay man.

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

I would certainly consider implementing such training, but as I indicate in Question 1 above, the atmosphere of my office reflects my governing philosophy of openness and inclusiveness. To my knowledge, no one has ever accused me or anyone in my employ of insensitivity or outright discrimination. If that were ever to occur I would address and rectify it immediately.

**3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?**

I have been a strong and consistent supporter in the Chicago City Council of increased funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs and strongly advocate for funding for such programs whenever it becomes an issue in the City budget cycle. I was a strong and vocal proponent of Alderman Shiller's successful efforts to increase such funding years ago.

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

I support the principles of Roe v. Wade and the right to choose when or whether to have an abortion, in consultation with one's physicians, without government intrusion.

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

I strongly support such programs.

**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. Many children need qualified parents to raise them in a stable home. We should find more ways to help qualified parents access adoption, not less.

**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 certainly open to the idea and understand the motivation underlying the formation of such a school. However, I am concerned such a school would perpetuate the social isolation of LGBT young people. In an ideal world, our schools would enforce strict policies against bullying and other harassment of LGBT young people, but I am enough of a realist to know we are not operating in an ideal world and that a school designed specifically for LGBT students may be necessary.

**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?**

A robust community policing policy is key to improving relationships between the police and the community residents they serve. Community policing allows for the police and community residents to interact with each other in a relaxed and non-confrontational manner to come up with creative solutions to our crime and disorder issues. Under such a model, the police no longer encounter community residents only as either perpetrators or victims of crime and community residents, in turn, gain a greater understanding of the demands and pressures faced by police officers on a daily basis. In short, both police officers and community residents gain a better understanding of each other and trust in each other. A relationship of trust and open communication between the police and the public is the key to preventing and solving crimes.

**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?**

Last month, I joined an overwhelming majority of my colleagues and voted to increase the minimum wage in Chicago to \$13 an hour by 2019. I was on the “Minimum Wage Working Group” task force that proposed the increase, and I was one of the lead sponsors of the ordinance. I believe the \$13 minimum wage strikes a fair balance by providing minimum wage workers with a 48% increase in wages over the next five years, while at the same time not unduly burdening small business. Chicago’s minimum wage of \$13 is roughly equivalent to a wage of \$15 in Seattle, which has the highest minimum wage in the nation.

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

One of my first legislative acts as alderman was to sponsor City Council hearings that moved City officials to adopt community policing, first as a pilot project and then citywide. I mobilized community groups in the far North Side to successfully designate the 24th Police District as a one of the pilot districts. Since then, I worked closely with the CAPS beat groups and the 24th District Police commanders to effectively combat crime and worked to install blue light police safety cameras in neighborhood “hot spots.” Despite a rough year with some high-profile shootings that understandably have elevated community concerns, serious crime in the 49th Ward remains well below the levels we experienced as recently as 10 years ago.

The 24th Police District is fortunate to have a series of police commanders who understand the essential role community residents play in crime prevention. This is why community policing remains a strong element of policing in the 24th District despite inconsistent support citywide. I was pleased to hear Mayor Emanuel express support for community policing in his recent budget address and his decision to decentralize community policing into the districts. Superintendent McCarthy has expressed similar support for community policing.

Policing is just one element to fighting crime. Recognizing the link between criminal activities and irresponsible landlords, I have taken on slumlords in the 49th Ward, a neighborhood with older housing stock, 75 percent of which is rental housing. One of my staffers devotes the vast majority of her time to housing issues, handling tenant complaints and taking irresponsible landlords to court. We force slumlords to improve their tenant screening and property upkeep or sell to responsible property developers. As a result, problem buildings, such as the reside building at Morse and Glenwood, now known as “Reside on Morse” and the Broadmoor Hotel at Howard and Bosworth, are now neighborhood assets.

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

Crime and public safety have always been and continue to be the greatest concerns I hear from the residents in my ward. Building a strong and cohesive community is the ultimate answer to our crime problem. What does a strong and cohesive community consist of? Residents who get involved and are civically engaged in their neighborhood, strong and vibrant locally-owned businesses, safe and affordable housing, living wage jobs and good schools. These priorities are interwoven. Progress on any and all of them leads to a safer and more secure neighborhood.

**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 have long been an advocate for more funding for homeless services, including services targeted for the special needs of homeless youth.

**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 campaign manager is an openly gay man.

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

In my 24 years on the City Council, I have been a stalwart supporter of every single cause and issue championed by the LGBT community, from implementing domestic partnership benefits and extending those benefits to transgendered individuals to extending bereavement leave benefits for LGBT employees to increased funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs to marriage equality. I have also actively lobbied my aldermanic colleagues who have sometimes waived on support for those issues. I will continue to be a leading advocate for the community upon my re-election.

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

The LGBT community is no different than any other community in that jobs and the economy serve as daunting challenges. The biggest challenge unique to the LGBT community, of course, is continued discrimination. Though our society is far more tolerant and accepting of LGBT individuals, we still have a long way to go. I look forward to the day where our differences are not only "tolerated," but celebrated.