

WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Aldermanic race

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). Feel free to 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: **Don Gordon** INCUMBENT? **NO**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Alderman** WARD (if appropriate): **49**

- 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? **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. See my answer in #5. I would advocate for that funding to include treatment/education.**
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law? **I am pro-choice and fully support Roe v Wade.**
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education? **I would support legislation in the city council to increase funding as well as increase funding to reopen health clinics across the city, including one here in the 49th ward.**
- 6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)? **ABSOLUTELY!**
- 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 believe we should provide services in our public schools to any at-risk students when necessary. I'm not convinced that LGBT children should be isolated from the mainstream, so if a Chicago high school were conceived with the same mission as HMHS, which is open to all children at risk, then yes, I would support such an institution.**

12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools? **YES. And that should include staff, teachers and parents as well.**

13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school? **YES as long as it is not a separate history class but rather is included as part of traditional American History courses. Contributions of LGBT individuals in our history should be viewed in the same context as anyone else, but identified as being LGBT.**

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? **I believe every CPD district should have not only an advocate assigned in the department whose main responsibility is working with at-risk youth and training/counseling other officers, but also a committee composed of ward residents who will assist in this effort.**

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? **YES. However I believe we should be advocating for a \$15/hr. minimum wage that would be implemented before 2019.**

17) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods? **Please see my web site for my platform on Public Safety <http://www.gordon2015.org/public-safety.html>**

18) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem? **Public Safety and Failing Schools. Please see my web site for my platforms on each. <http://www.gordon2015.org/public-safety.html> and <http://www.gordon2015.org/education.html>**

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? **Not only are 40 percent LGBTQ, but a disproportionate number are transgender. Similar to my answer in #5 I would advocate for more funding for this group but also for organization such as PFLAG which provide wrap around type services to parents of these 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. Many are because we have a large LGBT community here in the 49th Ward**

22) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues. **I had run previously in 2007 and had individuals on staff who were in leadership positions and guided me on LGBT issues, many of which are still with us today. In addition, I have numerous friends in the LGBT community and I am aware of problems that face the community.**

23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today? **In my opinion the LGBT community faces many of the same problems as everyone does – access to health care, securing good paying jobs, access to affordable education, homelessness, being victims of crime... however all of these tend to be exacerbated by the social discrimination that those in the LGBT community face. This discrimination in turn makes it much more difficult to overcome these problems and further restricts access to services as mentioned above in this questionnaire. All of this is overshadowed by the struggle for integration of the LGBT community into the broader community, due to the virtual absence of cultural competency on these issues in society today.**