

WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

YOUR NAME: **BRIAN GARNER**

INCUMBENT: **NO**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **ALDERMAN**

WARD: **6TH**

- 1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?
Yes, A written policy will be installed in my office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.
- 2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues?
Yes. Sensitivity training will be required for my staff.
- 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. I will sponsor community centered workshops, community health talk (CHT), and resource/education fairs in the local churches, schools, and social service centers in the area quarterly. Additionally, I will ensure that any information about testing or resources for HIV/AIDS is shared in the monthly network newsletter.
- 4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?
I support a woman's right to choose and a limitation of government's interference in that choice.
- 5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
The African American community needs more funding for the treatment and education of HIV/AIDS in the hopes of easing the fears and stigma associated with the disease.
- 6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)?
Yes. Everyone has the right to get married.
- 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?
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?
Every student should learn in a safe environment. I support schools like the Harvey Milk School, but I would also like for LGBT students to feel comfortable in any school they attend.

12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago Public Schools?

Yes. This is one avenue to help decrease the violence in the schools and in the community.

13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago Public Schools starting in middle school?

Yes, starting in the 7th grade.

14) Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago Public Schools starting in middle school?

Yes, starting in the 7th grade.

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 am a strong advocate on the position that people from disenfranchised groups take positions within the police and fire department.

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, I would have voted for an increase in minimum wage. Moreover, I support a livable wage in which one can sustain oneself reasonably living in Chicago.

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

To begin the needs of the community must be addressed. The quality of education, availability of community resources, sustainable economic centers, and such must be part of the planning when discussing how best to have an impact on the crime in these communities.

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

The lack of locally owned businesses I feel is the biggest problem in the 6th ward. I would like to see more community residents open businesses that provide jobs to others who live in the ward. To encourage this I created the First Fridays business breakfast where business owners and residents can come together every month to talk about needs and solutions for the ward.

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?

The City of Chicago has an abundance of abandoned buildings. These buildings can be turned over to agencies that provide care to the homeless youth population.

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. I would.

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.

No experiences to have on the LGBT related issues.

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

I feel the biggest problem facing the LGBT community is the lack of understanding and support from society. In the African American community it is the lack of acceptance and denial of the LGBT community.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

24) Briefly list your major qualifications for the office you seek:

a. Community Service

- i. Started a neighborhood patrol**
- ii. Block makeovers – cut vacant lots, started community garden**
- iii. Vice President in my neighborhood community organization**

b. Leadership

- i. Sergeant U.S. Army Airborne Artillery**
- ii. 83rd and Calumet Block Club President**
- iii. Superintendent Street and Sanitation for 10 years**

c. Advocacy

- i. Working with police commanders and community groups to foot patrols again in the ward**
- ii. Working with business owners and residents to support and encourage local entrepreneurship**
- iii. Work to get the City to give up abandoned buildings to use as a LGBT youth center**

25) Please list your top three policy priorities once in office:

My first major priority is to seek an ease of restrictions on barring individuals with a juvenile criminal record from applying for jobs with the city.

My next priority is to make sure schools are safer by mandating anti-bullying training for staff, teachers, and students.

My next policy priority is to implement a payment plan for car owners whose cars are stuck in the city pound.

26) Please briefly describe why you are requesting Citizen Action/Illinois's support for your campaign:

I seek to assure the city's LGBT community that I will fight for their causes because I will have a strong friendly relationship with LGBT organizations.

27) Please describe why you believe you can win election to this office:

The current alderman is not accessible or receptive to the residents of the 6th ward. This leads to miscommunication, lack of awareness, and a failure to provide leadership and services to the residents of the 6th ward.



6th ward Alderman

8 Jan 15

Signature

Office Sought & District

Date