

WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax ([773-871-7609](tel: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](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)) Call [773-871-7610](tel: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: Tara Baldrige INCUMBENT? NO

OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 8th

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

*Yes, I believe that a written discrimination policy should be in all public offices.*

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

*Yes, I think sensitivity training is an essential part of service to the community.*

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 not currently taken any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education; however, I believe that educating the public on these issues is vitally important to creating a community that is tolerant and considerate. I am currently holding meetings in my office that address a variety of issues that are important to my community; education, felons rights and equal education to name a few. I am committed to increasing awareness of all issues through the Alderman's office.*

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

*I believe in a woman's right to choose.*

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

*I believe that funding should be set aside for HIV/AIDS treatment and education.*

Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the gender)?

*Yes.*

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, I favor increased hate-crimes legislation.*

Do you believe LGBTs should foster parents if they are qualified? *Yes.*

9) Do you believe LGBTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified? *Yes.*

Would you keep such as the City of Chicago on Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues? *Yes.*

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

*I support a school that would address LGBT students specifically. However, as an African-American on the south side of the city, I worry that such a school would be “out of reach” for many of the youth in our community that would need such an institution. It is my hope that every school would welcome LGBT students and provide the necessary support to them and the school community to provide a welcoming environment that would grow to encompass both the school community and the community at large.*

Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying in Chicago public schools?

*Absolutely.*

Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

*Yes, I think an education that includes a fair and comprehensive history of the LGBT community is necessary for our students.*

Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

*Considering how the age of sexual exploration has lowered in recent years, I would advocate for*

*comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education that is inclusive of LGBT issues.*

What would you recommend to have a better relationship between police and the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?

*Education on tolerance, cultural sensitivity and social justice should be a requirement for all those in positions of power. This education needs to be started in all schools so that professionals in any industry are more tolerant. In addition, full funding of a CAPS program that allows police the opportunity to relate to neighbors in times of peace would help to create a mutually respectful relationship between police and people of color and the transgender community.*

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 fully support an increase in the minimum wage. For me, the minimum wage should be \$15 now. The increase schedule that is currently in place does not account for cost of living increases. I believe in 2019, we will be in the same position with minimum wage that we are in currently.*

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

*Building strong communities will be a major factor in decreasing the crime rate in Chicago. Minority communities suffer from lack of quality education, lack of neighborhood jobs, unreasonably high foreclosures and a lack of investment in resident owned businesses. In order to begin to address the issue of crime, we must address the issues that have led to the increase. As an alderman, I would work to reinvest in our community, supporting and marketing neighborhood businesses, working with schools to increase parent participation and proper curriculum and after school programming, as well as working with non-profit organizations that have been on the ground with our youth throughout the years. I would also work to establish true block clubs that work together to support residents and provide for their immediate needs. Communication between residents and the alderman's office must be efficient and effective to build our community and create a system in which shared values are used to positively effect the crime rate.*

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

*The biggest problem in our ward is a lack of investment in our community. We are suffering from an administration that does not appreciate the value of our residents. Our residents need jobs. I propose to*

*tackle this problem through investment in a business incubator that provides our residents with resources to create their own businesses from proposal to five year plan. I also would work to encourage stores to build in our ward and employ our residents.*

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 would provide support through my office for organizations assisting homeless youth. I also would advocate for substantial programming with CPS to provide services to homeless youth. Once again, education on issues involving LGBT are essential to moving forward with any initiatives. I would fully support training and advocacy for tolerance throughout the city of Chicago.*

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 of your campaign or general personnel--openly LGBT? *Yes.*

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

*I have never personally worked on an LGBT related issues politically; however, I have fully supported my friends and family in their endeavors both financially and emotionally.*

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

*Lack of mass education on LGBT issues is, in my opinion, the biggest problem. The reliance of stereotypical images of LGBT individual in the media as the main educator of the general public is detrimental to the community. To combat this, we need to focus on proper education and proper teaching of tolerance and sensitivity on a broad base.*