

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: Anthony Beale INCUMBENT? YES/NO Yes
OFFICE SOUGHT: Alderman WARD (if appropriate): 9

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. I support additional funding for such programs, and I support CPS's efforts to provide comprehensive sex education.

4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?
Abortion is a Constitutionally-protected right and I reject right-wing attempts to roll it back.

5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
I support funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education and would welcome the opportunity to increase that funding.

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? 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 open to the idea of a school designed specifically for, but not limited to the enrollment of, LGBTQ students, like the Harvey Milk school in New York. I believe providing safe spaces for LGBTQ youth is crucial in its own right and is an important way to continue Chicago's legacy as a leader on these issues.

12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?
Yes. Bullying is a scourge that must be eradicated.

13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school? Yes. I believe the history we teach in schools should be inclusive of all minority groups and social movements.

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?

Building trusting police-community relationships is important, difficult work, especially for historically oppressed communities like those of color and the transgendered. It starts with an open, honest dialog, and continues with making sure our laws promote harmony and not discord.

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?

I proudly voted to increase the minimum wage. I would support the continued, gradual raising of the minimum wage to \$15/hour.

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

I am proud to be able to say that crime is down 15% in my ward compared to last year. This is a great achievement and a testament to the hard work of the Chicago Police Department's 5th District. The most important piece of this reduction has been the relationship-building the police have done with the community's residents. Still, we need to make sure that Chicago's police force is fully staffed to cover all areas of the city. I also have long fought for resource reallocation for the entire city, so that resources are always placed where the problems are.

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

I am very focused on economic development in the 9th Ward. I believe that bringing additional businesses and jobs to the community is the surest path to prosperity for an area that has gone too long without. Seeing the Pullman Park development fully filled will be a great step forward. Pivoting off of that success, I'm confident we can attract even more, building on the 3,000 jobs we've created in the ward just over the last few years.

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 number of homeless youth in the city is a scandal. More than 22,000 CPS students were homeless last school year; that is a huge number of incredibly vulnerable people. We need more resources to solve this problem, including specific opportunities for homeless LGBTQ youth and more intensive outreach to all. We also must do more to provide permanent housing to the poor and to lift the poor out of poverty.

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? Several of my campaign workers are from the LGBTQ community.

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

I am always working with and supporting my friend in the Council, Alderman Tom Tunney, who is the leader on all LGBTQ issues.

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

The LGBTQ community has made great strides in recent years, but the work is far from over. Legally, the community still suffers from too many inequities, from adopting children to job security. But the struggle is more than legal; LGBTQ people still face a culture that too often stigmatizes them. So we have to work together to tear down both the official and unofficial discrimination faced by the LGBTQ community (and by all minority communities). I don't know that any single problem is more pressing than others, though I think the social ostracism (including bullying of kids) is the most potentially harmful to the lives of LGBTQ people.