

## WINDY CITY TIMES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

City Races (Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer)

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](mailto: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: Bob Fioretti

INCUMBENT? No

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

WARD (if appropriate): 2nd

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

We currently do not have a policy written yet, but would absolutely have a policy written and posted in the mayor's office that protects all members of every community from discrimination.

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues? Yes, absolutely we would have sensitivity training.

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

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

A woman should have a right to choose what is best for her own body, and I fully support all legislation that keeps abortion safe and legal.

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

We need to make certain that we can provide the resources to send a constant and consistent message to the community that we'll help those infected and provide the educational resources we need to combat HIV, continue to decrease its spread and fight for a cure.

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 that LGBT individuals should become foster parents if they are qualified? Yes

9) Do you believe that LGBT individuals have the right to adopt children if they are qualified? Yes

10) Would you keep committees around such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender 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?

Bob supports it and thinks it is a good idea because it creates a safe place for LGBTQ youth to go and be themselves. But, he will work to ensure all schools are welcoming and inclusive.

12) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools? Yes

13) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT-inclusive 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?

We need more sensitivity training within the force, and just as importantly we need to make certain that diversity is reflected on our police force. Police need to know and understand the communities they serve, and my administration will make certain of that.

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?

While I voted yes on the mayor's minimum wage proposal, \$13 by 2019 leaves workers making just pennies above the poverty line. I've championed legislation in City Council

that would've brought \$15 an hour by 2015, but the mayor only called his legislation to the floor. The ideal minimum wage is \$15 by 2015 and I will work to make that happen.

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

We need to take a holistic approach to policing. Strong neighborhoods naturally create safe streets, and when we bring economic opportunities, strengthen our neighborhood schools and create opportunities for our youth, we will see less crime. Additionally providing wrap around services, reopening our mental health clinics, implementing restorative justice, and making certain our first responders have the manpower and resources they need to do their jobs is crucial.

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

Pensions, the CPS budget and the out of control use of TIFs as a slush fund as pet projects for private interests.

We need to remember that a pension is a guarantee and the idea of reducing benefits breaks our promise to protect first responders. Second, CPS is facing a crisis and we need to address it. Third, our TIF program needs a complete overhaul.

In order to shore up our budgets, we can declare a TIF surplus and use some of that money for the pension fund, as well as making certain our schools have the resources they need. Additionally, a small commuter tax and LaSalle Street tax would help bring much needed money to the fund. Finally, we can find additional dollars with a top to bottom audit of city government.

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?

We need to look at what we've done in terms of the closures of our schools and how we can assist those who need help. Not only do they need a safe place to live, but they need safe places to learn. By providing CPS with the resources it needs (via the plans outlined in my economic and education policies) we can ensure that it works with homeless youth across the board have the services and help they need.

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?

While we have not asked anyone directly, many members of the campaign have actively worked on campaigns and in other areas to help fight for the rights of the LGBT community

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

As a civil rights attorney, I've always been an advocate for issues related to the LGBT community. I was one of the first to come out for marriage equality, and spoke at rallies to move the issue forward.

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

There's a disparity between the investment made on Halsted Street (Center on Halsted) and investments in other communities, particularly the south and west sides, that needs to be addressed. We need to ensure that all communities and resource providers have what they need to provide services to the groups they serve and make certain that there's an equitable allocation of public dollars to those who need them.