

2011 Mayoral Candidate LGBT Questionnaire

In partnership with LGBT organizations and community leaders, we have conducted three LGBT Community Forums all over the city of Chicago to hear what issues, key concerns and priorities the community would like mayoral candidates to address. From these forums we have put together the following questionnaire that will help the LGBT community determine where each candidate stands on these issues. Additionally, we have compiled issue papers for each topic for further information and background, these are available at www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html.

Please note that candidate responses will be posted on our website at www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html and send to local LGBT media. This non-partisan coalition will not be making an endorsement.

Questionnaire responses should be submitted via email to ebeecken@44thwarddemocrats.org by **Wednesday, January 5, 2011**. Please feel free to contact Erica Beecken at 773-935-9555 with questions.

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General

DATE _____

NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS _____

CAMPAIGN PHONE _____ FAX _____

CAMPAIGNWEBSITE _____ EMAIL _____

CAMPAIGN MANAGER _____

1. Briefly list your involvement with LGBT issues and organizations over the last ten years.

LGBT City of Chicago Employee Benefits

1. Which additional benefits would you seek to extend to LGBT employees that are not currently being offered by the City?
2. Would you actively advocate for ensuring that LGBT employees are afforded the same partnership benefits as those individuals who are able to marry? Please be specific.

Education

1. What are your criteria for hiring and evaluating the CEO of Chicago Public Schools (CPS)? What aspects of diversity are important to you for this role and how, if at all, would the CEO be evaluated for creating a system where all students feel safe and respected within the Chicago Public Schools' system?
2. Will you commit to the inclusion of LGBT families and students in CPS policy formation and in plans/programs/activities of CPS?
3. How would you support system-wide inclusion of LGBTQ topics in curricula in age-appropriate ways? Would you support system-wide sex- education that includes HIV and STI prevention in age appropriate ways?
4. Would you institute a CPS-wide online occurrence reporting system that includes reports of bullying and discrimination filed by students, staff and families that also tracks the category of protected class against which the incident was directed? If so, would you give students,

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staff and families an oversight role in tracking complaints and their resolutions in order to identify potential issues for schools, school leadership, school security, etc.?

5. How will you fight to end anti-gay and other forms of bullying in schools (K-12)? Will you ensure that appropriate policies are written and implemented in schools to prevent or respond appropriately to bullying?

Aging

1. Would you support an assessment of the capacity of the city of Chicago to provide culturally competent and welcoming programming for LGBT seniors?
2. How will you work with LGBT community agencies in Chicago to increase their capacity to service LGBT seniors?
3. Will you recognize LGBT seniors as a vulnerable population with unique and specific needs and designated as a target population under the criteria of the Area Plan for the Chicago Department on Senior Services?

Youth Homelessness

1. What needs to be done to make Chicago a safer, more open community to LGBT youth to prevent homelessness?
2. How will you work to improve LGBT competency in city departments and among organizations that receive city funds?

Transgender Rights

1. Homelessness is a constant problem in the transgender community and is greatly linked to lack of employment opportunities for transgendered people. What will you do as mayor to address the problem of homelessness and employment among transgender individuals?
2. How will you investigate and remedy the persistent instances of discrimination against transgender people that go unreported?
3. Can you commit to inclusion more transgender people to work in municipal government, including managerial and directorial positions?

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Marriage Equality

1. Will you support equal marriage rights for same sex couples? Will you advocate for marriage equality on the state and federal level?

HIV/AIDS & Health

1. How will you acknowledge the urgent need for HIV prevention and continue to devote city resources toward programs and initiatives that counter the spread of HIV?
2. Do you support continued City corporate funding for the Chicago Department of Public Health Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health?
3. How will you address HIV prevention in communities of color?
4. How will you work to improve LGBT competency in city health departments and among organizations that receive city funds?
5. What criteria would you use to determine a more equitable way to distribute funding for HIV prevention and services?

Public Safety

1. Will you promote the active recruitment of LGBT individuals for the Police and Fire Departments?
2. How will you strengthen current LGBT sensitivity training programs in both Departments?
3. Will you commit to placing an LGBT liaison in each police district? Or each of the 5 police areas?
4. Would you support the creation and implementation of standardized guidelines for humane treatment of transgendered individuals while in the custody of the Chicago Police Department – guidelines that would be created by transgendered community members in collaboration with the Chicago Police Department?

Advisory Council

1. What role will the Advisory Council on LGBT Issues have in your Administration? Additionally, what role will the Director of the Advisory Council have in your Administration?